(51) International Patent Classification 5 : C12N 9/50, 15/51, 15/57 C12N 15/62, C12Q 1/37	**A1**	(11) International Publication Number: **WO 91/15575** (43) International Publication Date: 17 October 1991 (17.10.91)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US91/02210 (22) International Filing Date: 4 April 1991 (04.04.91) (30) Priority data: 505,433 4 April 1990 (04.04.90) US (71) Applicant: CHIRON CORPORATION [US/US]; 4560 Horton Street, Emeryville, CA 94608 (US). (72) Inventors: HOUGHTON, Michael ; 53 Rosemead Court, Danville, CA 94526 (US). CHOO, Qui-Lim ; 5700 Fern Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530 (US). KUO, George ; 1370 Sixth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112 (US). (74) Agents: CIOTTI, Thomas, E. et al.; Irell & Manella, 545 Middlefield Road, Suite 200, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3471 (US).	(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BB, BE (European patent), BF (OAPI patent), BG, BJ (OAPI patent), BR, CA, CF (OAPI patent), CG (OAPI patent), CH, CH (European patent), CM (OAPI patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FI, FR (European patent), GA (OAPI patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), HU, IT (European patent), JP, KP, KR, LK, LU (European patent), MC, MG, ML (OAPI patent), MR (OAPI patent), MW, NL (European patent), NO, PL, RO, SD, SE (European patent), SN (OAPI patent), SU, TD (OAPI patent), TG (OAPI patent). **Published** *With international search report.* *Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.*

(54) Title: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

(57) Abstract

The protease necessary for polyprotein processing in Hepatitis C virus is identified, cloned, and expressed. Proteases, truncated protease, and altered proteases are disclosed which are useful for cleavage of specific polypeptides, and for assay and design of antiviral agents specific for HCV.

- 1 -

5   <u>HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE</u>

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Serial
10   No. 07/505,433, filed on 4 April 1990.

Technical Field

This invention relates to the molecular biology and virology of the
hepatitis C virus (HCV). More specifically, this invention relates to a novel
15   protease produced by HCV, methods of expression, recombinant protease, prote-
ase mutants, and inhibitors of HCV protease.

Background of the Invention

Non-A, Non-B hepatitis (NANBH) is a transmissible disease (or
20   family of diseases) that is believed to be virally induced, and is distinguishable
from other forms of virus-associated liver disease, such as those caused by hep-
atitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), delta hepatitis virus (HDV), cyto-
megalovirus (CMV) or Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). Epidemiologic evidence sug-
gests that there may be three types of NANBH: the water-borne epidemic type;
25   the blood or needle associated type; and the sporadically occurring (community
acquired) type. However, the number of causative agents i: unknown. Recently,
however, a new viral species, hepatitis C virus (HCV) has been identified as the
primary (if not only) cause of blood-associated NANBH (BB-NANBH). See for

- 2 -

example, PCT WO89/046699; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 7/456,637, filed
21 December 1989; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 7/456,637, filed 21
December 1989, incorporated herein by reference. Hepatitis C appears to be the
major form of transfusion-associated hepatitis in a number of countries, including
5   the United States and Japan. There is also evidence implicating HCV in induc-
tion of hepatocellular carcinoma. Thus, a need exists for an effective method for
treating HCV infection: currently, there is none.

Many viruses, including adenoviruses, baculoviruses, comoviruses,
picornaviruses, retroviruses, and togaviruses, rely on specific, virally-encoded pro-
10 teases for processing polypeptides from their initial translated form into mature,
active proteins. In the case of picornaviruses, all of the viral proteins are believed
to arise from cleavage of a single polyprotein (B.D. Korant, CRC Crit Rev
Biotech (1988) 8:149-57).

S. Pichuantes et al, in "Viral Proteinases As Targets For Chemother-
15 apy" (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989) pp. 215-22, disclosed expression
of a viral protease found in HIV-1. The HIV protease was obtained in the form
of a fusion protein, by fusing DNA encoding an HIV protease precursor to DNA
encoding human superoxide dismutase (hSOD), and expressing the product in E.
coli. Transformed cells expressed products of 36 and 10 kDa (corresponding to
20 the hSOD-protease fusion protein and the protease alone), suggesting that the
protease was expressed in a form capable of autocatalytic proteolysis.

T.J. McQuade et al, Science (1990) 247:454-56 disclosed preparation
of a peptide mimic capable of specifically inhibiting the HIV-1 protease. In HIV,
the protease is believed responsible for cleavage of the initial p55 gag precursor
25 transcript into the core structural proteins (p17, p24, p8, and p7). Adding 1 μM
inhibitor to HIV-infected peripheral blood lymphocytes in culture reduced the
concentration of processed HIV p24 by about 70%. Viral maturation and levels
of infectious virus were reduced by the protease inhibitor.

Disclosure of the Invention

We have now invented recombinant HCV protease, HCV protease fusion proteins, truncated and altered HCV proteases, cloning and expression vectors therefore, and methods for identifying antiviral agents effective for treating HCV.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows the sequence of HCV protease.

Figure 2 shows the polynucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the clone C20c.

Figure 3 shows the polynucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the clone C26d.

Figure 4 shows the polynucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the clone C8h.

Figure 5 shows the polynucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the clone C7f.

Figure 6 shows the polynucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the clone C31.

Figure 7 shows the polynucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the clone C35.

Figure 8 shows the polynucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the clone C33c.

Figure 9 schematically illustrates assembly of the vector C7fC20cC300C200.

Figure 10 shows the sequence of vector cf1SODp600.

- 4 -

Modes of Carrying Out The Invention

A. Definitions

The terms "Hepatitis C Virus" and "HCV" refer to the viral species

5 that is the major etiological agent of BB-NANBH, the prototype isolate of which
is identified in PCT WO89/046699; EPO publication 318,216; USSN 7/355,008,
filed 18 May 1989; and USSN 7/456,637, the disclosures of which are incorpor-
ated herein by reference. "HCV" as used herein includes the pathogenic strains
capable of causing hepatitis C, and attenuated strains or defective interfering par-

10 ticles derived therefrom. The HCV genome is comprised of RNA. It is known
that RNA-containing viruses have relatively high rates of spontaneous mutation,
reportedly on the order of 10^{-3} to 10^{-4} per incorporated nucleotide (Fields &
Knipe, "Fundamental Virology" (1986, Raven Press, N.Y.)). As heterogeneity and
fluidity of genotype are inherent characteristics of RNA viruses, there will be mul-

15 tiple strains/isolates, which may be virulent or avirulent, within the HCV species.

Information on several different strains/isolates of HCV is disclosed
herein, particularly strain or isolate CDC/HCVI (also called HCV1). Information
from one strain or isolate, such as a partial genomic sequence, is sufficient to
allow those skilled in the art using standard techniques to isolate new strains/

20 isolates and to identify whether such new strains/isolates are HCV. For example,
several different strains/isolates are described below. These strains, which were
obtained from a number of human sera (and from different geographical areas),
were isolated utilizing the information from the genomic sequence of HCV1.

The information provided herein suggests that HCV may be dis-

25 tantly related to the flaviviridae. The Flavivirus family contains a large number of
viruses which are small, enveloped pathogens of man. The morphology and com-
position of Flavivirus particles are known, and are discussed in M.A. Brinton, in
"The Viruses: The Togaviridae And Flaviviridae" (Series eds. Fraenkel-Conrat and

- 5 -

Wagner, vol. eds. Schlesinger and Schlesinger, Plenum Press, 1986), pp. 327-374. Generally, with respect to morphology, Flaviviruses contain a central nucleocapsid surrounded by a lipid bilayer. Virions are spherical and have a diameter of about 40-50 nm. Their cores are about 25-30 nm in diameter. Along the outer surface
5   of the virion envelope are projections measuring about 5-10 nm in length with terminal knobs about 2 nm in diameter. Typical examples of the family include Yellow Fever virus, West Nile virus, and Dengue Fever virus. They possess positive-stranded RNA genomes (about 11,000 nucleotides) that are slightly larger than that of HCV and encode a polyprotein precursor of about 3500 amino acids.
10 Individual viral proteins are cleaved from this precursor polypeptide.

The genome of HCV appears to be single-stranded RNA containing about 10,000 nucleotides. The genome is positive-stranded, and possesses a continuous translational open reading frame (ORF) that encodes a polyprotein of about 3,000 amino acids. In the ORF, the structural proteins appear to be
15 encoded in approximately the first quarter of the N-terminal region, with the majority of the polyprotein attributed to non-structural proteins. When compared with all known viral sequences, small but significant co-linear homologies are observed with the non-structural proteins of the Flavivirus family, and with the pestiviruses (which are now also considered to be part of the Flavivirus family).

20 A schematic alignment of possible regions of a flaviviral polyprotein (using Yellow Fever Virus as an example), and of a putative polyprotein encoded in the major ORF of the HCV genome, is shown in Figure 1. Possible domains of the HCV polyprotein are indicated in the figure. The Yellow Fever Virus polyprotein contains, from the amino terminus to the carboxy terminus, the nucleocap-
25 sid protein (C), the matrix protein (M), the envelope protein (E), and the non-structural proteins 1, 2 (a+b), 3, 4 (a+b), and 5 (NS1, NS2, NS3, NS4, and NS5). Based upon the putative amino acids encoded in the nucleotide sequence of HCV1, a small domain at the extreme N-terminus of the HCV polyprotein

appears similar both in size and high content of basic residues to the nucleocapsid
protein (C) found at the N-terminus of flaviviral polyproteins. The non-structural
proteins 2,3,4, and 5 (NS2-5) of HCV and of yellow fever virus (YFV) appear to
have counterparts of similar size and hydropathicity, although the amino acid

5 sequences diverge. However, the region of HCV which would correspond to the
regions of YFV polyprotein which contains the M, E, and NS1 protein not only
differs in sequence, but also appears to be quite different in size and hydropathic-
ity. Thus, while certain domains of the HCV genome may be referred to herein
as, for example, NS1, or NS2, it should be understood that these designations are

10 for convenience of reference only; there may be considerable differences between
the HCV family and flaviviruses that have yet to be appreciated.

Due to the evolutionary relationship of the strains or isolates of
HCV, putative HCV strains and isolates are identifiable by their homology at the
polypeptide level. With respect to the isolates disclosed herein, new HCV strains

15 or isolates are expected to be at least about 40% homologous, some more than
about 70% homologous, and some even more than about 80% homologous: some
may be more than about 90% homologous at the polypeptide level. The tech-
niques for determining amino acid sequence homology are known in the art. For
example, the amino acid sequence may be determined directly and compared to

20 the sequences provided herein. Alternatively the nucleotide sequence of the gen-
omic material of the putative HCV may be determined (usually via a cDNA inter-
mediate), the amino acid sequence encoded therein can be determined, and the
corresponding regions compared.

The term "HCV protease" refers to an enzyme derived from HCV

25 which exhibits proteolytic activity, specifically the polypeptide encoded in the NS3
domain of the HCV genome. At least one strain of HCV contains a protease
believed to be substantially encoded by or within the following sequence:

- 7 -

	Arg Arg Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro	10
	Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys Gly Trp Arg	20
	Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln	30
	Gln Thr Arg Gly Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile	40
5	Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln	50
	Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr	60
	Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu Ala Thr Cys Ile	70
	Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly	80
	Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys	90
10	Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr Thr Asn Val	100
	Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Ser	110
	Gln Gly Thr Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr	120
	Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu Val Thr	130
	Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg	140
15	Arg Gly Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu Ser	150
	Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys Gly Ser	160
	Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly	170
	His Ala Val Gly Ile Phe Arg Ala Ala Val	180
	Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp	190
20	Phe Ile Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr	200
	Met Arg •••	202

The above N and C termini are putative, the actual termini being

defined by expression and processing in an appropriate host of a DNA construct

encoding the entire NS3 domain. It is understood that this sequence may vary

25   from strain to strain, as RNA viruses like HCV are known to exhibit a great deal

of variation. Further, the actual N and C termini may vary, as the protease is

cleaved from a precursor polyprotein: variations in the protease amino acid

sequence can result in cleavage from the polyprotein at different points. Thus,

the amino- and carboxy-termini may differ from strain to strain of HCV. The first

30   amino acid shown above corresponds to residue 60 in Figure 1. However, the

minimum sequence necessary for activity can be determined by routine methods.

The sequence may be truncated at either end by treating an appropriate expres-

sion vector with an exonuclease (after cleavage at the 5' or 3' end of the coding

sequence) to remove any desired number of base pairs. The resulting coding

35   polynucleotide is then expressed and the sequence determined. In this manner

- 8 -

the activity of the resulting product may be correlated with the amino acid sequence: a limited series of such experiments (removing progressively greater numbers of base pairs) determines the minimum internal sequence necessary for protease activity. We have found that the sequence may be substantially trun-

5   cated, particularly at the carboxy terminus, apparently with full retention of protease activity. It is presently believed that a portion of the protein at the carboxy terminus may exhibit helicase activity. However, helicase activity is not required of the HCV proteases of the invention. The amino terminus may also be truncated to a degree without loss of protease activity.

10   The amino acids underlined above are believed to be the residues necessary for catalytic activity, based on sequence homology to putative flavivirus serine proteases. Table 1 shows the alignment of the three serine protease catalytic residues for HCV protease and the protease obtained from Yellow Fever Virus, West Nile Fever virus, Murray Valley Fever virus, and Kunjin virus.

15   Although the other four flavivirus protease sequences exhibit higher homology with each other than with HCV, a degree of homology is still observed with HCV. This homology, however, was not sufficient for indication by currently available alignment software. The indicated amino acids are numbered His_{79}, Asp_{103}, and Ser_{161} in the sequence listed above (His_{139}, Asp_{163}, and Ser_{221} in Figure 1).

20

TABLE 1: Alignment of Active Residues by Sequence

Protease	His	Asp	Ser
HCV	CWTVYHGAG	DQDLGWPAP	LKGSSGGPL
Yellow Fever	FHTMWHVTR	KEDLVAYGG	PSGTSGSPI
West Nile Fever	FHTLWHTTK	KEDRLCYGG	PTGTSGSPI
Murray Valley	FHTLWHTTR	KEDRVTYGG	PIGTSGSPI
Kunjin Virus	FHTLWHTTK	KEDRLCYGG	PTGTSGSPI

-9-

Alternatively, one can make catalytic residue assignments based on structural homology. Table 2 shows alignment of HCV with against the catalytic sites of several well-characterized serine proteases based on structural con-

5   siderations: protease A from *Streptomyces griseus*, α-lytic protease, bovine trypsin, chymotrypsin, and elastase (M. James et al, Can J Biochem (1978) 56:396). Again, a degree of homology is observed. The HCV residues identified are numbered His_{79}, Asp_{123}, and Ser_{161} in the sequence listed

.10   above.

TABLE 2: Alignment of Active Residues by Structure

Protease	His	Asp	Ser
S. griseus A	TAGHC	NNDYGII	GDSGGSL
α-Lytic protease	TAGHC	GNDRAWV	GDSGGSW
Bovine Trypsin	SAAHC	NNDIMLI	GDSGGPV
Chymotrypsin	TAAHC	NNDITLL	GDSGGPL
Elastase	TAAHC	GYDIALL	GDSGGPL
HCV	TVYHG	SSDLYLV	GSSGGPL

The most direct manner to verify the residues essential to the active. site is to replace each residue individually with a residue of equivalent stearic size. This is easily accomplished by site-specific mutagenesis and similar methods

5   known in the art. If replacement of a particular residue with a residue of equivalent size results in loss of activity, the essential nature of the replaced residue is confirmed.

"HCV protease analogs" refer to polypeptides which vary from the full length protease sequence by deletion, alteration and/or addition to the amino

10   acid sequence of the native protease. HCV protease analogs include the truncated proteases described above, as well as HCV protease muteins and fusion proteins comprising HCV protease, truncated protease, or protease muteins.

- 10 -

Alterations to form HCV protease muteins are preferably conservative amino acid substitutions, in which an amino acid is replaced with another naturally-occurring amino acid of similar character. For example, the following substitutions are considered "conservative":

5
         Gly -- Ala;   Lys -- Arg;

         Val -- Ile -- Leu;   Asn -- Gln; and

         Asp -- Glu;   Phe -- Trp -- Tyr.

- 11 -

Nonconservative changes are generally substitutions of one of the above amino acids with an amino acid from a different group (e.g., substituting Asn for Glu), or substituting Cys, Met, His, or Pro for any of the above amino acids. Substitutions involving common amino acids are conveniently performed by site specific muta-

5　genesis of an expression vector encoding the desired protein, and subsequent expression of the altered form. One may also alter amino acids by synthetic or semi-synthetic methods. For example, one may convert cysteine or serine residues to selenocysteine by appropriate chemical treatment of the isolated protein. Alternatively, one may incorporate uncommon amino acids in standard *in vitro*

10　protein synthetic methods. Typically, the total number of residues changed, deleted or added to the native sequence in the muteins will be no more than about 20, preferably no more than about 10, and most preferably no more than about 5.

The term fusion protein generally refers to a polypeptide comprising

15　an amino acid sequence drawn from two or more individual proteins. In the present invention, "fusion protein" is used to denote a polypeptide comprising the HCV protease, truncate, mutein or a functional portion thereof, fused to a non-HCV protein or polypeptide ("fusion partner"). Fusion proteins are most conveniently produced by expression of a fused gene, which encodes a portion of one

20　polypeptide at the 5' end and a portion of a different polypeptide at the 3' end, where the different portions are joined in one reading frame which may be expressed in a suitable host. It is presently preferred (although not required) to position the HCV protease or analog at the carboxy terminus of the fusion protein, and to employ a functional enzyme fragment at the amino terminus. As the

25　HCV protease is normally expressed within a large polyprotein, it is not expected to include cell transport signals (e.g., export or secretion signals). Suitable functional enzyme fragments are those polypeptides which exhibit a quantifiable activity when expressed fused to the HCV protease. Exemplary enzymes include, with-

- 12 -

out limitation, ß-galactosidase (ß-gal), ß-lactamase, horseradish peroxidase (HRP), glucose oxidase (GO), human superoxide dismutase (hSOD), urease, and the like. These enzymes are convenient because the amount of fusion protein produced can be quantified by means of simple colorimetric assays. Alternatively, one may

5   employ antigenic proteins or fragments, to permit simple detection and quantification of fusion proteins using antibodies specific for the fusion partner. The presently preferred fusion partner is hSOD.

B. General Method

10   The practice of the present invention generally employs conventional techniques of molecular biology, microbiology, recombinant DNA, and immunology, which are within the skill of the art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature. See for example J. Sambrook et al, "Molecular Cloning; A Laboratory Manual (1989); "DNA Cloning", Vol. I and II (D.N Glover ed. 1985);

15   "Oligonucleotide Synthesis" (M.J. Gait ed, 1984); "Nucleic Acid Hybridization" (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. 1984); "Transcription And Translation" (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. 1984); "Animal Cell Culture" (R.I. Freshney ed. 1986); "Immobilized Cells And Enzymes" (IRL Press, 1986); B. Perbal, "A Practical Guide To Molecular Cloning" (1984); the series, "Methods In Enzymology"

20   (Academic Press, Inc.); "Gene Transfer Vectors For Mammalian Cells" (J.H. Miller and M.P. Calos eds. 1987, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory); Meth Enzymol (1987) 154 and 155 (Wu and Grossman, and Wu, eds., respectively); Mayer & Walker, eds. (1987), "Immunochemical Methods In Cell And Molecular Biology" (Academic Press, London); Scopes, "Protein Purification: Principles And

25   Practice", 2nd Ed (Springer-Verlag, N.Y., 1987); and "Handbook Of Experimental Immunology", volumes I-IV (Weir and Blackwell, eds, 1986).

Both prokaryotic and eukaryotic host cells are useful for expressing desired coding sequences when appropriate control sequences compatible with the

designated host are used. Among prokaryotic hosts, *E. coli* is most frequently used. Expression control sequences for prokaryotes include promoters, optionally containing operator portions, and ribosome binding sites. Transfer vectors compatible with prokaryotic hosts are commonly derived from, for example, pBR322,

5   a plasmid containing operons conferring ampicillin and tetracycline resistance, and the various pUC vectors, which also contain sequences conferring antibiotic resistance markers. These plasmids are commercially available. The markers may be used to obtain successful transformants by selection. Commonly used prokaryotic control sequences include the ß-lactamase (penicillinase) and lactose promoter

10   systems (Chang et al, Nature (1977) 198:1056), the tryptophan (trp) promoter system (Goeddel et al, Nuc Acids Res (1980) 8:4057) and the lambda-derived P_L promoter and N gene ribosome binding site (Shimatake et al, Nature (1981) 292:128) and the hybrid tac promoter (De Boer et al, Proc Nat Acad Sci USA (1983) 292:128) derived from sequences of the trp and lac UV5 promoters. The

15   foregoing systems are particularly compatible with *E. coli*; if desired, other prokaryotic hosts such as strains of Bacillus or Pseudomonas may be used, with corresponding control sequences.

       Eukaryotic hosts include without limitation yeast and mammalian cells in culture systems. Yeast expression hosts include *Saccharomyces*, *Klebsiella*,

20   *Picia*, and the like. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis* and *K. lactis* are the most commonly used yeast hosts, and are convenient fungal hosts. Yeast-compatible vectors carry markers which permit selection of successful transformants by conferring prototrophy to auxotrophic mutants or resistance to heavy metals on wild-type strains. Yeast compatible vectors may employ the 2μ origin

25   of replication (Broach et al, Meth Enzymol (1983) 101:307), the combination of CEN3 and ARS1 or other means for assuring replication, such as sequences which will result in incorporation of an appropriate fragment into the host cell genome. Control sequences for yeast vectors are known in the art and include promoters

- 14 -

for the synthesis of glycolytic enzymes (Hess et al, *J Adv Enzyme Reg* (1968) 7: 149; Holland et al, *Biochem* (1978), 17:4900), including the promoter for 3-phos-phoglycerate kinase (R. Hitzeman et al, *J Biol Chem* (1980) 255:2073). Terminators may also be included, such as those derived from the enolase gene (Holland,

5   *J Biol Chem* (1981) 256:1385). Particularly useful control systems are those which comprise the glyceraldehyde-3 phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) promoter or alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) regulatable promoter, terminators also derived from GAPDH, and if secretion is desired, a leader sequence derived from yeast α-. factor (see U.S. Pat. No. 4,870,008, incorporated herein by reference).

10   A presently preferred expression system employs the ubiquitin leader as the fusion partner. Copending application USSN 7/390,599 filed 7 August 1989 disclosed vectors for high expression of yeast ubiquitin fusion proteins. Yeast ubiquitin provides a 76 amino acid polypeptide which is automatically cleaved from the fused protein upon expression. The ubiquitin amino acid

15   sequence is as follows:

        Gln Ile Phe Val Lys Thr Leu Thr Gly Lys Thr Ile Thr
        Leu Glu Val Glu Ser Ser Asp Thr Ile Asp Asn Val
        Lys Ser Lys Ile Gln Asp Lys Glu Gly Ile Pro Pro Asp
        Gln Gln Arg Leu Ile Phe Ala Gly Lys Gln Leu Glu
20   Asp Gly Arg Thr Leu Ser Asp Tyr Asn Ile Gln Lys
        Glu Ser Thr Leu His Leu Val Leu Arg Leu Arg Gly
        Gly

        See also Ozkaynak et al, *Nature* (1984) 312:663-66. Polynucleotides
25   encoding the ubiquitin polypeptide may be synthesized by standard methods, for example following the technique of Barr et al, *J Biol Chem* (1988) 268:1671-78 using an Applied Biosystem 380A DNA synthesizer. Using appropriate linkers, the ubiquitin gene may be inserted into a suitable vector and ligated to a sequence encoding the HCV protease or a fragment thereof.

In addition, the transcriptional regulatory region and the transcriptional initiation region which are operably linked may be such that they are not naturally associated in the wild-type organism. These systems are described in detail in EPO 120,551, published October 3, 1984; EPO 116,201, published August 22, 1984; and EPO 164,556, published December 18, 1985, all of which are commonly owned with the present invention, and are hereby incorporated herein by reference in full.

Mammalian cell lines available as hosts for expression are known in the art and include many immortalized cell lines available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), including HeLa cells, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, baby hamster kidney (BHK) cells, and a number of other cell lines. Suitable promoters for mammalian cells are also known in the art and include viral promoters such as that from Simian Virus 40 (SV40) (Fiers et al, _Nature_ (1978) _273_:113), Rous sarcoma virus (RSV), adenovirus (ADV), and bovine papilloma virus (BPV). Mammalian cells may also require terminator sequences and poly-A addition sequences. Enhancer sequences which increase expression may also be included, and sequences which promote amplification of the gene may also be desirable (for example methotrexate resistance genes). These sequences are known in the art.

Vectors suitable for replication in mammalian cells are known in the art, and may include viral replicons, or sequences which insure integration of the appropriate sequences encoding HCV epitopes into the host genome. For example, another vector used to express foreign DNA is Vaccinia virus. In this case the heterologous DNA is inserted into the Vaccinia genome. Techniques for the insertion of foreign DNA into the vaccinia virus genome are known in the art, and may utilize, for example, homologous recombination. The heterologous DNA is generally inserted into a gene which is non-essential to the virus, for example, the thymidine kinase gene (_tk_), which also provides a selectable marker. Plasmid

- 16 -

vectors that greatly facilitate the construction of recombinant viruses have been
described (see, for example, Mackett et al, J Virol (1984) 49:857; Chakrabarti et
al, Mol Cell Biol (1985) 5:3403; Moss, in GENE TRANSFER VECTORS FOR
MAMMALIAN CELLS (Miller and Calos, eds., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory,
5   NY, 1987), p. 10). Expression of the HCV polypeptide then occurs in cells or ani-
mals which are infected with the live recombinant vaccinia virus.

In order to detect whether or not the HCV polypeptide is expressed
from the vaccinia vector, BSC 1 cells may be infected with the recombinant vector
and grown on microscope slides under conditions which allow expression. The
10   cells may then be acetone-fixed, and immunofluorescence assays performed using
serum which is known to contain anti-HCV antibodies to a polypeptide(s)
encoded in the region of the HCV genome from which the HCV segment in the
recombinant expression vector was derived.

Other systems for expression of eukaryotic or viral genomes include
15   insect cells and vectors suitable for use in these cells. These systems are known in
the art, and include, for example, insect expression transfer vectors derived from
the baculovirus *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV), which
is a helper-independent, viral expression vector. Expression vectors derived from
this system usually use the strong viral polyhedrin gene promoter to drive
20   expression of heterologous genes. Currently the most commonly used transfer
vector for introducing foreign genes into AcNPV is pAc373 (see PCT WO89/
046699 and USSN 7/456,637). Many other vectors known to those of skill in the
art have also been designed for improved expression. These include, for example,
pVL985 (which alters the polyhedrin start codon from ATG to ATT, and intro-
25   duces a BamHI cloning site 32 bp downstream from the ATT; See Luckow and
Summers, Virol (1989) 17:31). AcNPV transfer vectors for high level expression
of nonfused foreign proteins are described in copending applications PCT
WO89/046699 and USSN 7/456,637. A unique BamHI site is located following

- 17 -

position -8 with respect to the translation initiation codon ATG of the polyhedrin gene. There are no cleavage sites for SmaI, PstI, BglII, XbaI or SstI. Good expression of nonfused foreign proteins usually requires foreign genes that ideally have a short leader sequence containing suitable translation initiation signals pre-

5   ceding an ATG start signal. The plasmid also contains the polyhedrin polyadenyl-ation signal and the ampicillin-resistance (amp) gene and origin of replication for selection and propagation in *E. coli.*

Methods for the introduction of heterologous DNA into the desired site in the baculovirus virus are known in the art. (See Summer and Smith, Texas

10   Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 1555; Smith et al, *Mol Cell Biol* (1983) 3:2156-2165; and Luckow and Summers, *Virol* (1989) 17:31). For example, the heterologous DNA can be inserted into a gene such as the polyhedrin gene by homologous recombination, or into a restriction enzyme site engineered into the desired baculovirus gene. The inserted sequences may be those which encode all

15   or varying segments of the polyprotein, or other orfs which encode viral polypep-tides. For example, the insert could encode the following numbers of amino acid segments from the polyprotein: amino acids 1-1078; amino acids 332-662; amino acids 406-662; amino acids 156-328, and amino acids 199-328.

The signals for post-translational modifications, such as signal pep-

20   tide cleavage, proteolytic cleavage, and phosphorylation, appear to be recognized by insect cells. The signals required for secretion and nuclear accumulation also appear to be conserved between the invertebrate cells and vertebrate cells. Examples of the signal sequences from vertebrate cells which are effective in invertebrate cells are known in the art, for example, the human interleukin-2 sig-

25   nal ($IL2_s$) which signals for secretion from the cell, is recognized and properly removed in insect cells.

Transformation may be by any known method for introducing poly-nucleotides into a host cell, including, for example packaging the polynucleotide in

- 18 -

a virus and transducing a host cell with the virus, and by direct uptake of the poly-

nucleotide. The transformation procedure used depends upon the host to be

transformed. Bacterial transformation by direct uptake generally employs treat-

ment with calcium or rubidium chloride (Cohen, Proc Nat Acad Sci USA (1972)

5   69:2110; T. Maniatis et al, "Molecular Cloning; A Laboratory Manual" (Cold

Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1982). Yeast transformation by

direct uptake may be carried out using the method of Hinnen et al, Proc Nat

Acad Sci USA (1978) 75:1929. Mammalian transformations by direct uptake may

be conducted using the calcium phosphate precipitation method of Graham and

10   Van der Eb, Virol (1978) 52:546, or the various known modifications thereof.

Other methods for introducing recombinant polynucleotides into cells, particularly

into mammalian cells, include dextran-mediated transfection, calcium phosphate

mediated transfection, polybrene mediated transfection, protoplast fusion, electro-

poration, encapsulation of the polynucleotide(s) in liposomes, and direct micro-

15   injection of the polynucleotides into nuclei.

Vector construction employs techniques which are known in the art.

Site-specific DNA cleavage is performed by treating with suitable restriction

enzymes under conditions which generally are specified by the manufacturer of

these commercially available enzymes. In general, about 1 μg of plasmid or DNA

20   sequence is cleaved by 1 unit of enzyme in about 20 μL buffer solution by incuba-

tion for 1-2 hr at 37°C. After incubation with the restriction enzyme, protein is

removed by phenol/chloroform extraction and the DNA recovered by precipita-

tion with ethanol. The cleaved fragments may be separated using polyacrylamide

or agarose gel electrophoresis techniques, according to the general procedures

25   described in Meth Enzymol (1980) 65:499-560.

Sticky-ended cleavage fragments may be blunt ended using E. coli

DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment) with the appropriate deoxynucleotide tri-

- 19 -

phosphates (dNTPs) present in the mixture. Treatment with S1 nuclease may also be used, resulting in the hydrolysis of any single stranded DNA portions.

Ligations are carried out under standard buffer and temperature conditions using T4 DNA ligase and ATP; sticky end ligations require less ATP and less ligase than blunt end ligations. When vector fragments are used as part of a ligation mixture, the vector fragment is often treated with bacterial alkaline phosphatase (BAP) or calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase to remove the 5'-phosphate, thus preventing religation of the vector. Alternatively, restriction enzyme digestion of unwanted fragments can be used to prevent ligation.

Ligation mixtures are transformed into suitable cloning hosts, such as *E. coli*, and successful transformants selected using the markers incorporated (e.g., antibiotic resistance), and screened for the correct construction.

Synthetic oligonucleotides may be prepared using an automated oligonucleotide synthesizer as described by Warner, DNA (1984) 3:401. If desired, the synthetic strands may be labeled with ^{32}P by treatment with polynucleotide kinase in the presence of ^{32}P-ATP under standard reaction conditions.

DNA sequences, including those isolated from cDNA libraries, may be modified by known techniques, for example by site directed mutagenesis (see e.g., Zoller, Nuc Acids Res (1982) 10:6487). Briefly, the DNA to be modified is packaged into phage as a single stranded sequence, and converted to a double stranded DNA with DNA polymerase, using as a primer a synthetic oligonucleotide complementary to the portion of the DNA to be modified, where the desired modification is included in the primer sequence. The resulting double stranded DNA is transformed into a phage-supporting host bacterium. Cultures of the transformed bacteria which contain copies of each strand of the phage are plated in agar to obtain plaques. Theoretically, 50% of the new plaques contain phage having the mutated sequence, and the remaining 50% have the original sequence. Replicates of the plaques are hybridized to labeled synthetic probe at temper-

- 20 -

atures and conditions which permit hybridization with the correct strand, but not with the unmodified sequence. The sequences which have been identified by hybridization are recovered and cloned.

DNA libraries may be probed using the procedure of Grunstein and Hogness Proc Nat Acad Sci USA (1975) 73:3961. Briefly, in this procedure the DNA to be probed is immobilized on nitrocellulose filters, denatured, and pre-hybridized with a buffer containing 0-50% formamide, 0.75 M NaCl, 75 mM Na citrate, 0.02% (wt/v) each of bovine serum albumin, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and Ficoll®, 50 mM NaH_2PO_4 (pH 6.5), 0.1% SDS, and 100 μg/mL carrier denatured DNA. The percentage of formamide in the buffer, as well as the time and tem-perature conditions of the prehybridization and subsequent hybridization steps depend on the stringency required. Oligomeric probes which require lower strin-gency conditions are generally used with low percentages of formamide, lower temperatures, and longer hybridization times. Probes containing more than 30 or 40 nucleotides, such as those derived from cDNA or genomic sequences generally employ higher temperatures, e.g., about 40-42°C, and a high percentage formam-ide, e.g., 50%. Following prehybridization, 5'-^{32}P-labeled oligonucleotide probe is added to the buffer, and the filters are incubated in this mixture under hybridization conditions. After washing, the treated filters are subjected to autoradiography to show the location of the hybridized probe; DNA in corres-ponding locations on the original agar plates is used as the source of the desired DNA.

For routine vector constructions, ligation mixtures are transformed into E. coli strain HB101 or other suitable hosts, and successful transformants sel-ected by antibiotic resistance or other markers. Plasmids from the transformants are then prepared according to the method of Clewell et al, Proc Nat Acad Sci USA (1969) 62:1159, usually following chloramphenicol amplification (Clewell, J Bacteriol (1972) 110:667). The DNA is isolated and analyzed, usually by restric-

- 21 -

tion enzyme analysis and/or sequencing. Sequencing may be performed by the dideoxy method of Sanger et al, _Proc Nat Acad Sci USA_ (1977) 74:5463, as further described by Messing et al, _Nuc Acids Res_ (1981) 9:309, or by the method of Maxam et al, _Meth Enzymol_ (1980) 65:499. Problems with band compression,

5   which are sometimes observed in GC-rich regions, were overcome by use of T-deazoguanosine according to Barr et al, _Biotechniques_ (1986) 4:428.

The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) can be used to measure either antigen or antibody concentrations. This method depends upon conjugation of an enzyme to either an antigen or an antibody, and uses the bound

10   enzyme activity as a quantitative label. To measure antibody, the known antigen is fixed to a solid phase (e.g., a microtiter dish, plastic cup, dipstick, plastic bead, or the like), incubated with test serum dilutions, washed, incubated with anti-immunoglobulin labeled with an enzyme, and washed again. Enzymes suitable for labeling are known in the art, and include, for example, horseradish peroxidase

15   (HRP). Enzyme activity bound to the solid phase is usually measured by adding a specific substrate, and determining product formation or substrate utilization colorimetrically. The enzyme activity bound is a direct function of the amount of antibody bound.

To measure antigen, a known specific antibody is fixed to the solid

20   phase, the test material containing antigen is added, after an incubation the solid phase is washed, and a second enzyme-labeled antibody is added. After washing, substrate is added, and enzyme activity is measured colorimetrically, and related to antigen concentration.

Proteases of the invention may be assayed for activity by cleaving a

25   substrate which provides detectable cleavage products. As the HCV protease is believed to cleave itself from the genomic polyprotein, one can employ this auto-catalytic activity both to assay expression of the protein and determine activity. For example, if the protease is joined to its fusion partner so that the HCV pro-

- 22 -

tease N-terminal cleavage signal (Arg-Arg) is included, the expression product will cleave itself into fusion partner and active HCV protease. One may then assay the products, for example by western blot, to verify that the proteins produced correspond in size to the separate fusion partner and protease proteins. It is pres-

5   ently preferred to employ small peptide p-nitrophenyl esters or methylcoumarins, as cleavage may then be followed by spectrophotometric or fluorescent assays. Following the method described by E.D. Matayoshi et al, Science (1990) 247:231-35, one may attach a fluorescent label to one end of the substrate and a quenching molecule to the other end: cleavage is then determined by measuring the

10   resulting increase in fluorescence. If a suitable enzyme or antigen has been employed as the fusion partner, the quantity of protein produced may easily be determined. Alternatively, one may exclude the HCV protease N-terminal cleavage signal (preventing self-cleavage) and add a separate cleavage substrate, such as a fragment of the HCV NS3 domain including the native processing signal or a

15   synthetic analog.

In the absence of this protease activity, the HCV polyprotein should remain in its unprocessed form, and thus render the virus noninfectious. Thus, the protease is useful for assaying pharmaceutical agents for control of HCV, as compounds which inhibit the protease activity sufficiently will also inhibit viral

20   infectivity. Such inhibitors may take the form of organic compounds, particularly compounds which mimic the cleavage site of HCV recognized by the protease. Three of the putative cleavage sites of the HCV polyprotein have the following amino acid sequences:

25   Val-Ser-Ala-Arg-Arg // Gly-Arg-Glu-Ile-Leu-Leu-Gly
              Ala-Ile-Leu-Arg-Arg // His-Val-Gly-Pro-
              Val-Ser-Cys-Gln-Arg // Gly-Tyr-

- 23 -

These sites are characterized by the presence of two basic amino acids immediately before the cleavage site, and are similar to the cleavage sites recognized by other flavivirus proteases. Thus, suitable protease inhibitors may be prepared which mimic the basic/basic/small neutral motif of the HCV cleavage

5   sites, but substituting a nonlabile linkage for the peptide bond cleaved in the natural substrate. Suitable inhibitors include peptide trifluoromethyl ketones, peptide boronic acids, peptide α-ketoesters, peptide difluoroketo compounds, peptide aldehydes, peptide diketones, and the like. For example, the peptide aldehyde N-acetyl-phenylalanyl-glycinaldehyde is a potent inhibitor of the protease

10   papain. One may conveniently prepare and assay large mixtures of peptides using the methods disclosed in U.S. Patent application Serial No. 7/189,318, filed 2 May 1988 (published as PCT WO89/10931), incorporated herein by reference. This application teaches methods for generating mixtures of peptides up to hexapeptides having all possible amino acid sequences, and further teaches assay methods

15   for identifying those peptides capable of binding to proteases.

Other protease inhibitors may be proteins, particularly antibodies and antibody derivatives. Recombinant expression systems may be used to generate quantities of protease sufficient for production of monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) specific for the protease. Suitable antibodies for protease inhibition will

20   bind to the protease in a manner reducing or eliminating the enzymatic activity, typically by obscuring the active site. Suitable MAbs may be used to generate derivatives, such as Fab fragments, chimeric antibodies, altered antibodies, univalent antibodies, and single domain antibodies, using methods known in the art.

Protease inhibitors are screened using methods of the invention. In

25   general, a substrate is employed which mimics the enzyme's natural substrate, but which provides a quantifiable signal when cleaved. The signal is preferably detectable by colorimetric or fluorometric means: however, other methods such as HPLC or silica gel chromatography, GC-MS, nuclear magnetic resonance, and

- 24 -

the like may also be useful. After optimum substrate and enzyme concentrations
are determined, a candidate protease inhibitor is added to the reaction mixture at
a range of concentrations. The assay conditions ideally should resemble the con-
ditions under which the protease is to be inhibited *in vivo*, i.e., under physiologic
5   pH, temperature, ionic strength, etc. Suitable inhibitors will exhibit strong pro-
tease inhibition at concentrations which do not raise toxic side effects in the sub-
ject. Inhibitors which compete for binding to the protease active site may require
concentrations equal to or greater than the substrate concentration, while inhib-
itors capable of.binding irreversibly to the protease active site may be added in
10   concentrations on the order of the enzyme concentration.

In a presently preferred embodiment, an inactive protease mutein is
employed rather than an active enzyme. It has been found that replacing a
critical residue within the active site of a protease (e.g., replacing the active site
Ser of a serine protease) does not significantly alter the structure of the enzyme,
15   and thus preserves the binding specificity. The altered enzyme still recognizes and
binds to its proper substrate, but fails to effect cleavage. Thus, in one method of
the invention an inactivated HCV protease is immobilized, and a mixture of can-
didate inhibitors added. Inhibitors that closely mimic the enzyme's preferred
recognition sequence will compete more successfully for binding than other candi-
20   date inhibitors. The poorly-binding candidates may then be separated, and the
identity of the strongly-binding inhibitors determined. For example, HCV prot-
ease may be prepared substituting Ala for Ser_{221} (Fig. 1), providing an enzyme
capable of binding the HCV protease substrate, but incapable of cleaving it. The
resulting protease mutein is then bound to a solid support, for example Sephadex®
25   beads, and packed into a column. A mixture of candidate protease inhibitors in
solution is then passed through the column and fractions collected. The last frac-
tions to elute will contain the strongest-binding compounds, and provide the pre-
ferred protease inhibitor candidates.

- 25 -

Protease inhibitors may be administered by a variety of methods, such as intravenously, orally, intramuscularly, intraperitoneally, bronchially, intra-nasally, and so forth. The preferred route of administration will depend upon the nature of the inhibitor. Inhibitors prepared as organic compounds may often be administered orally (which is generally preferred) if well absorbed. Protein-based inhibitors (such as most antibody derivatives) must generally be administered by parenteral routes.

C. Examples

The examples presented below are provided as a further guide to the practitioner of ordinary skill in the art, and are not to be construed as limiting the invention in any way.

Example 1
(Preparation of HCV cDNA)

A genomic library of HCV cDNA was prepared as described in PCT WO89/046699 and USSN 7/456,637. This library, ATCC accession no. 40394, has been deposited as set forth below.

Example 2
(Expression of the Polypeptide Encoded in Clone 5-1-1.)

(A)   The HCV polypeptide encoded within clone 5-1-1 (see Example 1) was expressed as a fusion polypeptide with human superoxide dis-mutase (SOD). This was accomplished by subcloning the clone 5-1-1 cDNA insert into the expression vector pSODCF1 (K.S. Steimer et al, *J Virol* (1986) 58:9; EPO 138,111) as follows. The SOD/5-1-1 expression vector was transformed into *E. coli* D1210 cells. These cells, named Cf1/5-1-1 in *E. coli*, were deposited as set forth below and have an ATCC accession no. of 67967.

- 26 -

First, DNA isolated from pSODCF1 was treated with BamHI and EcoRI, and the following linker was ligated into the linear DNA created by the restriction enzymes:

GAT CCT GGA ATT CTG ATA AGA CCT TAA GAC TAT TTT AA

5

After cloning, the plasmid containing the insert was isolated.

Plasmid containing the insert was restricted with EcoRI. The HCV cDNA insert in clone 5-1-1 was excised with EcoRI, and ligated into this EcoRI linearized plasmid DNA. The DNA mixture was used to transform *E. coli* strain

5   D1210 (Sadler et al, *Gene* (1980) 8:279). Recombinants with the 5-1-1 cDNA in the correct orientation for expressing the ORF shown in Figure 1 were identified by restriction mapping and nucleotide sequencing.

Recombinant bacteria from one clone were induced to express the SOD-HCV$_{5-1-1}$ polypeptide by growing the bacteria in the presence of IPTG.

10   Three separate expression vectors, pcf1AB, pcf1CD, and pcf1EF were created by ligating three new linkers, AB, CD, and EF to a BamHI-EcoRI fragment derived by digesting to completion the vector pSODCF1 with EcoRI and BamHI, followed by treatment with alkaline phosphatase. The linkers were created from six oligomers, A, B, C, D, E, and F. Each oligomer was phosphoryl-

15   ated by treatment with kinase in the presence of ATP prior to annealing to its complementary oligomer. The sequences of the synthetic linkers were the following:

- 27 -

Name	DNA Sequence (5' to 3')
A	GATC CTG AAT TCC TGA TAA
B	GAC TTA AGG ACT ATT TTA A
C	GATC CGA ATT CTG TGA TAA
D	GCT TAA GAC ACT ATT TTA A
E	GATC CTG GAA TTC TGA TAA
F	GAC CTT AAG ACT ATT TTA A

Each of the three linkers destroys the original EcoRI site, and creates a new EcoRI site within the linker, but within a different reading frame. Thus, the HCV cDNA EcoRI fragments isolated from the clones, when inserted into the expression vector, were in three different reading frames.

The HCV cDNA fragments in the designated gt11 clones were excised by digestion with EcoRI; each fragment was inserted into pcf1AB, pcf1CD, and pcf1EF. These expression constructs were then transformed into D1210 $E.$ $coli$ cells, the transformants cloned, and polypeptides expressed as described in part B below.

(B)   Expression products of the indicated HCV cDNAs were tested for antigenicity by direct immunological screening of the colonies, using a modification of the method described in Helfman et al, $\underline{Proc\ Nat\ Acad\ Sci\ USA}$ (1983), $\underline{80}$:31. Briefly, the bacteria were plated onto nitrocellulose filters overlaid on ampicillin plates to give approximately 40 colonies per filter. Colonies were replica plated onto nitrocellulose filters, and the replicas were regrown overnight in the presence of 2 mM IPTG and ampicillin. The bacterial colonies were lysed by suspending the nitrocellulose filters for about 15 to 20 min in an atmosphere saturated with $CHCl_3$ vapor. Each filter then was placed in an individual 100 mm Petri dish containing 10 mL of 50 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 3% (w/v) BSA, 40 μg/mL lysozyme, and 0.1 μg/mL DNase. The plates

- 28 -

were agitated gently for at least 8 hours at room temperature. The filters were
rinsed in TBST (50 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 0.005% Tween® 20).
After incubation, the cell residues were rinsed and incubated for one hour in TBS
(TBST without Tween®) containing 10% sheep serum. The filters were then

5   incubated with pretreated sera in TBS from individuals with NANBH, which
included 3 chimpanzees; 8 patients with chronic NANBH whose sera were pos-
itive with respect to antibodies to HCV C100-3 polypeptide (also called C100); 8
patients with chronic NANBH whose sera were negative for anti-C100 antibodies;
a convalescent patient whose serum was negative for anti-C100 antibodies; and 6

10   patients with community-acquired NANBH, including one whose sera was strongly
positive with respect to anti-C100 antibodies, and one whose sera was marginally
positive with respect to anti-C100 antibodies. The sera, diluted in TBS, was pre-
treated by preabsorption with hSOD for at least 30 minutes at 37°C. After incu-
bation, the filters were washed twice for 30 min with TBST. The expressed pro-

15   teins which bound antibodies in the sera were labeled by incubation for 2 hours
with ^{125}I-labeled sheep anti-human antibody. After washing, the filters were
washed twice for 30 min with TBST, dried, and autoradiographed.

                                    Example 3

20   (Cloning of Full-Length SOD-Protease Fusion Proteins)
                    (A)   pBR322-C200:
                    The nucleotide sequences of the HCV cDNAs used below were
            determined essentially as described above, except that the cDNA excised from
            these phages were substituted for the cDNA isolated from clone 5-1-1.

25   Clone C33c was isolated using a hybridization probe having the fol-
            lowing sequence:
                    5' ATC AGG ACC GGG GTG AGA ACA ATT ACC ACT 3'

- 29 -

The sequence of the HCV cDNA in clone C33c is shown in Figure 8, which also shows the amino acids encoded therein.

' Clone 35 was isolated by screening with a synthetic polynucleotide having the sequence:

5   5' AAG CCA CCG TGT GCG CTA GGG CTC AAG CCC 3'

Approximately 1 in 50,000 clones hybridized with the probe. The polynucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences for C35 are shown in Figure 7.

Clone C31 is shown in Figure 6, which also shows the amino acids encoded therein. A C200 cassette was constructed by ligating together a 718 bp

10   fragment obtained by digestion of clone C33c DNA with EcoRI and HinfI, a 179 bp fragment obtained by digestion of clone C31 DNA with HinfI and BglI, and a 377 bp fragment obtained by digesting clone C35 DNA with BglI and EcoRI. The construct of ligated fragments were inserted into the EcoRI site of pBR322, yielding the plasmid pBR322-C200.

15   (B)   C7f+C20c:

Clone 7f was isolated using a probe having the sequence:

5'-AGC AGA CAA GGG GCC TCC TAG GGT GCA TAA T-3'

The sequence of HCV cDNA in clone 7f and the amino acids encoded therein are shown in Figure 5.

20   Clone C20c is isolated using a probe having the following sequence:

5'-TGC ATC AAT GGG GTG TGC TGG-3'

The sequence of HCV cDNA in clone C20c, and the amino acids encoded therein are shown in Figure 2.

Clones 7f and C20c were digested with EcoRI and SfaNI to form

25   400 bp and 260 bp fragments, respectively. The fragments were then cloned into the EcoRI site of pBR322 to form the vector C7f+C20c, and transformed into HB101 cells.

- 30 -

(C)   C300:

Clone 8h was isolated using a probe based on the sequence of nucleotides in clone 33c. The nucleotide sequence of the probe was

5'-AGA GAC AAC CAT GAG GTC CCC GGT GTT C-3'.

5   The sequence of the HCV cDNA in clone 8h, and the amino acids encoded therein, are shown in Figure 4.

Clone C26d is isolated using a probe having the following sequence:

5'-CTG TTG TGC CCC GCG GCA GCC-3'

The sequence and amino acid translation of clone C26d is shown in

10   Figure 3.

Clones C26d and C33c (see part A above) were transformed into the methylation minus *E. coli* strain GM48. Clone C26d was digested with EcoRII and DdeI to provide a 100 bp fragment. Clone C33c was digested with EcoRII and EcoRI to provide a 700 bp fragment. Clone C8h was digested with

15   EcoRI and DdeI to provide a 208 bp fragment. These three fragments were then ligated into the EcoRI site of pBR322, and transformed into *E. coli* HB101, to provide the vector C300.

(D)   Preparation of Full Length Clones:

A 600 bp fragment was obtained from C7f+C20c by digestion with

20   EcoRI and NaeI, and ligated to a 945 bp NaeI/EcoRI fragment from C300, and the construct inserted into the EcoRI site of pGEM4Z (commercially available from Promega) to form the vector C7fC20cC300.

C7fC20cC300 was digested with NdeI and EcoRI to provide a 892 bp fragment, which was ligated with a 1160 bp fragment obtained by digesting

25   C200 with NdeI and EcoRI. The resulting construct was inserted into the EcoRI site of pBR322 to provide the vector C7fC20cC300C200. Construction of this vector is illustrated schematically in Figure 9.

- 31 -

Example 4
(Preparation of *E. coli* Expression Vectors)

(A)   cf1SODp600:

This vector contains a full-length HCV protease coding sequence
fused to a functional hSOD leader. The vector C7fC20cC300C200 was cleaved
with EcoRI to provide a 2000 bp fragment, which was then ligated into the EcoRI
site of plasmid cf1CD (Example 2A). The resulting vector encodes amino acids 1-
151 of hSOD, and amino acids 946-1630 of HCV (numbered from the beginning
of the polyprotein, corresponding to amino acids 1-686 in Figure 1). The vector
was labeled cf1SODp600 (sometimes referred to as P600), and was transformed
into *E. coli* D1210 cells. These cells, ATCC accession no. 68275, were deposited
as set forth below.

(B)   P190:

A truncated SOD-protease fusion polynucleotide was prepared by
excising a 600 bp EcoRI/NaeI fragment from C7f+C20c, blunting the fragment
with Klenow fragment, ligating the blunted fragment into the Klenow-blunted
EcoRI site of cf1EF (Example 2A). This polynucleotide encodes a fusion protein
having amino acids 1-151 of hSOD, and amino acids 1-199 of HCV protease.

(C)   P300:

A longer truncated SOD-protease fusion polynucleotide was pre-
pared by excising an 892 bp EcoRI/NdeI fragment from C7fC20cC300, blunting
the fragment with Klenow fragment, ligating the blunted fragment into the
Klenow-blunted EcoRI site of cf1EF. This polynucleotide encodes a fusion pro-
tein having amino acids 1-151 of hSOD, and amino acids 1-299 of HCV protease.

(D)   P500:

A longer truncated SOD-protease fusion polynucleotide was pre-
pared by excising a 1550 bp EcoRI/EcoRI fragment from C7fC20cC300, and ligat-
ing the fragment into the EcoRI site of cf1CD to form P500. This polynucleotide

- 32 -

encodes a fusion protein having amino acids 1-151 of hSOD, and amino acids 946-
1457 of HCV protease (amino acids 1-513 in Figure 1).

(E)   FLAG/Protease Fusion

This vector contains a full-length HCV protease coding sequence
fused to the FLAG sequence, Hopp et al. (1988) Biotechnology 6: 1204-1210.
PCR was used to produce a HCV protease gene with special restriction ends for
cloning ease. Plasmid p500 was digested with EcoRI and NdeI to yield a 900 bp
fragment. This fragment and two primers were used in a polymerase chain
reaction to introduce a unique BglII site at amino acid 1009 and a stop codon
with a SalI site at amino acid 1262 of the HCV-1, as shown in Figure 17 of WO
90/11089, published 4 October 1990. The sequence of the primers is as follows:

5' CCC GAG CAA GAT CTC CCG GCC C 3'

and

5' CCC GGC TGC ATA AGC AGT CGA CTT GGA 3'

After 30 cycles of PCR, the reaction was digested with BglII and SalI, and the 710
bp fragment was isolated. This fragment was annealed and ligated to the
following duplex:

```
MetAspTyrLysAspAspAspAspLysGlyArgGlu
CATGGACTACAAAGACGATGACGATAAAGGCCGGGA
    CTGATGTTTCTGCTACTGCTATTTCCGGCCCTCTAG
```

The duplex encodes the FLAG sequence, and initiator methionine, and a 5' NcoI
restriction site. The resulting NcoI/SalI fragment was ligated into a derivative of
pCF1.

This construct is then transformed into E. coli D1210 cells and expression
of the protease is induced by the addition of IPTG.

The FLAG sequence was fused to the HCV protease to facilitate
purification. A calcium dependent monoclonal antibody, which binds to the

- 33 -

FLAG encoded peptide, is used to purify the fusion protein without harsh eluting conditions.

Example 5

(E. coli Expression of SOD-Protease Fusion Proteins)

(A)   E. coli D1210 cells were transformed with cf1SODp600 and grown in Luria broth containing 100 μg/mL ampicillin to an OD of 0.3-0.5. IPTG was then added to a concentration of 2 mM, and the cells cultured to a final OD of 0.9 to 1.3. The cells were then lysed, and the lysate analyzed by Western blot using anti-HCV sera, as described in USSN 7/456,637.

The results indicated the occurrence of cleavage, as no full length product (theoretical Mr 93 kDa) was evident on the gel. Bands corresponding to the hSOD fusion partner and the separate HCV protease appeared at relative molecular weights of about 34, 53, and 66 kDa. The 34 kDa band corresponds to the hSOD partner (about 20 kDa) with a portion of the NS3 domain, while the 53 and 66 kDa bands correspond to HCV protease with varying degrees of (possibly bacterial) processing.

(B)   E. coli D1210 cells were transformed with P500 and grown in Luria broth containing 100 μg/mL ampicillin to an OD of 0.3-0.5. IPTG was then added to a concentration of 2 mM, and the cells cultured to a final OD of 0.8 to 1.0. The cells were then lysed, and the lysate analyzed as described above.

The results again indicated the occurrence of cleavage, as no full length product (theoretical Mr 73 kDa) was evident on the gel. Bands corresponding to the hSOD fusion partner and the truncated HCV protease appeared at molecular weights of about 34 and 45 kDa, respectively.

(C)   E. coli D1210 cells were transformed with vectors P300 and P190 and grown as described above.

- 34 -

The results from P300 expression indicated the occurrence of cleavage, as no full length product (theoretical Mr 51 kDa) was evident on the gel. A band corresponding to the hSOD fusion partner appeared at a relative molecular weight of about 34. The corresponding HCV protease band was not visible, as

5   this region of the NS3 domain is not recognized by the sera employed to detect the products. However, appearance of the hSOD band at 34 kDa rather than 51 kDa indicates that cleavage occurred.

The P190 expression product appeared only as the full (encoded) length product without cleavage, forming a band at about 40 kDa, which corresponds to

10 the theoretical molecular weight for the uncleaved product. This may indicate that the minimum essential sequence for HCV protease extends to the region between amino acids 199 and 299.

Example 6
(Purification of *E. coli* Expressed Protease)

15

The HCV protease and fragments expressed in Example 5 may be purified as follows:

The bacterial cells in which the polypeptide was expressed are subjected to osmotic shock and mechanical disruption, the insoluble fraction containing the

20 protease is isolated and subjected to differential extraction with an alkaline-NaCl solution, and the polypeptide in the extract purified by chromatography on columns of S-Sepharose® and Q-Sepharose®.

The crude extract resulting from osmotic shock and mechanical disruption is prepared by suspending 1 g of the packed cells in 10 mL of a solution con-

25 taining 0.02 M Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM EDTA, 20% sucrose, and incubating for 10 minutes on ice. The cells are then pelleted by centrifugation at 4,000 x g for 15 min at 4°G. After the supernatant is removed, the cell pellets are resuspended in 10 mL of Buffer A1 (0.01 M Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 14 mM ß-mercap-

- 35 -

toethanol - "ßME"), and incubated on ice for 10 minutes. The cells are again
pelleted at 4,000 x g for 15 minutes at 4°G. After removal of the clear super-
natant (periplasmic fraction I), the cell pellets are resuspended in Buffer A1, incu-
bated on ice for 10 minutes, and again centrifuged at 4,000 x g for 15 minutes at

5   4°G. The clear supernatant (periplasmic fraction II) is removed, and the cell
pellet resuspended in 5 mL of Buffer T2 (0.02 M Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 14 mM ßME,
1 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF). In order to disrupt the cells, the suspension (5 mL)
and 7.5 mL of Dyno-mill lead-free acid washed glass beads (0.10-0.15 mm diam-
eter) (available from Glen-Mills, Inc.) are placed in a Falcon tube and vortexed at

10   top speed for two minutes, followed by cooling for at least 2 min on ice. The
vortexing-cooling procedure is repeated another four times. After vortexing, the
slurry is filtered through a sintered glass funnel using low suction, the glass beads
washed twice with Buffer A2, and the filtrate and washes combined.

The insoluble fraction of the crude extract is collected by centrifugation at

15   20,000 x g for 15 min at 4°C, washed twice with 10 mL Buffer A2, and resus-
pended in 5 mL of MILLI-Q water.

A fraction containing the HCV protease is isolated from the insoluble
material by adding to the suspension NaOH (2 M) and NaCl (2 M) to yield a
final concentration of 20 mM each, vortexing the mixture for 1 minute, centrifuging

20   it 20,000 x g for 20 min at 4°C, and retaining the supernatant.

The partially purified protease is then purified by SDS-PAGE. The pro-
tease may be identified by western blot, and the band excised from the gel. The
protease is then eluted from the band, and analyzed to confirm its amino acid
sequence. N-terminal sequences may be analyzed using an automated amino acid

25   sequencer, while C-terminal sequences may be analyzed by automated amino acid
sequencing of a series of tryptic fragments.

- 36 -

Example 7
(Preparation of Yeast Expression Vector)
(A)   P650 (SOD/Protease Fusion)

This vector contains HCV sequence, which includes the wild-type full-
5   length HCV protease coding sequence, fused at the 5' end to a SOD coding
sequence. Two fragments, a 441 bp EcoRI/BglII fragment from clone 11b and a
1471 bp BglII/EcoRI fragment from expression vector P500, were used to
reconstruct a wild-type, full-length HCV protease coding sequence. These two
fragments were ligated together with an EcoRI digested pS356 vector to produce
10 an expression cassette. The expression cassette encodes the ADH2/GAPDH
hybrid yeast promoter, human SOD, the HCV protease, and a GAPDH
transcription terminator.   The resulting vector was digested with BamHI and a
4052 bp fragment was isolated. This fragment was ligated to the BamHI digested
pAB24 vector to produce p650. p650 expresses a polyprotein containing, from its
15 amino terminal end, amino acids 1-154 of hSOD, an oligopeptide -Asn-Leu-Gly-
Ile-Arg- , and amino acids 819 to 1458 of HCV-1, as shown in Figure 17 of WO
90/11089, published 4 October 1990.

Clone 11b was isolated from the genomic library of HCV cDNA, ATCC
accession no. 40394, as described above in Example 3A, using a hybridization
20 probe having the following sequence:

5' CAC CTA TGT TTA TAA CCA TCT CAC TCC TCT 3'.

This procedure is also described in EPO Pub. No. 318 216, Example IV.A.17.

The vector pS3EF, which is a pBR322 derivative, contains the
ADH2/GAPDH hybrid yeast promoter upstream of the human superoxide
25 dimutase gene, an adaptor, and a downstream yeast effective transcription
terminator. A similar expression vector containing these control elements and the
superoxide dismutase gene is described in Cousens et al. (1987) Gene 61: 265, and
in copending application EPO 196,056, published October 1, 1986. pS3EF,

- 37 -

however, differs from that in Cousens et al. in that the heterologous proinsulin
gene and the immunoglobulin hinge are deleted, and Gln_{154} of SOD is followed by
an

adaptor sequence which contains an EcoRI site. The sequence of the adaptor is:

5   5' AAT TTG GGA ATT CCA TAA TTA ATT AAG 3'
                3' AC CCT TAA GGT ATT AAT TAA TTC AGCT   5'

The EcoRI site facilitates the insertion of heterologous sequences. Once inserted
into pS3EF, a SOD fusion is expressed which contains an oligopeptide that links
SOD to the heterologous sequences. pS3EF is exactly the same as pS356 except

10   that pS356 contains a different adaptor. The sequence of the adaptor is shown
below:

5'   AAT TTG GGA ATT CCA TAA TGA G   3'
            3' AC CCT TAA GGT ATT ACT CAG CT 5'

pS356, ATCC accession no. 67683, is deposited as set forth below.

15   Plasmid pAB24 is a yeast shuttle vector, which contains pBR322
sequences, the complete 2μ sequence for DNA replication in yeast (Broach (1981)
in: Molecular Biology of the Yeast Saccharomyces, Vol. 1, p. 445, Cold spring
Harbor Press.) and the yeast LEU^{2d} gene derived from plasmid pC1/1, described
in EPO Pub. No. 116 201. Plasmid pAB24 was constructed by digesting YEp24

20   with EcoRI and re-ligating the vector to remove the partial 2 micron sequences.
The resulting plasmid, YEp24deltaRI, was linearized with ClaI and ligated with
the complete 2 micron plasmid which had been linearized with ClaI. The
resulting plasmid, pCBou, was then digested with XbaI, and the 8605 bp vector
fragment was gel isolated. This isolated XbaI fragment was ligated with a 4460

25   bp XbaI fragment containing the LEU^{2d} gene isolated from pC1/1; the orientation
of LEU^{2d} gene is in the same direction as the URA3 gene.

           S. cerevisae, 2150-2-3 (pAB24-GAP-env2), accession no. 20827, is
deposited with the American Type Culture Collection as set forth below. The
plasmid pAB24-GAP-env2 can be recovered from the yeast cells by known

- 38 -

techniques. The GAP-env2 expression cassette can be removed by digesting pAB24-GAP-env2 with BamHI. pAB24 is recovered by religating the vector without the BamHI insert.

5   Example 8
                    (Yeast Expression of SOD-Protease Fusion Protein)
                    p650 was transformed in *S. cerevisae* strain JSC310, Mata, leu2, ura3-52, prb1-1122, pep4-3, prc1-407, cir°: DM15 (g418 resistance). The transformation is as described by Hinnen et al. (1978) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA
10   75: 1929. The transformed cells were selected on ura- plates with 8% glucose. The plates were incubated at 30°C for 4-5 days. The tranformants were further selected on leu- plates with 8% glucose putatively for high numbers of the p650 plasmid. Colonies from the leu- plates were inoculated into leu- medium with 3% glucose. These cultures were shaken at 30°C for 2 days and then diluted 1/20
15   into YEPD medium with 2% glucose and shaken for 2 more days at 30°C.
                    S. cerevisae JSC310 contains DM15 DNA, described in EPO Pub. No. 340 986, published 8 NOvember 1989. This DM15 DNA enhances ADH2 regulated expression of heterologous proteins. pDM15, accession no. 40453, is deposited with the American Type Culture Collection as set forth below.
20

                                          Example 9
                    (Yeast Ubiquitin Expression of Mature HCV Protease)
                    Mature HCV protease is prepared by cleaving vector C7fC20cC300C200 with EcoRI to obtain a 2 Kb coding sequence, and inserting
25   the sequence with the appropriate linkers into a ubiquitin expression vector, such as that described in WO 88/02406, published 7 April 1988, or USSN 7/390,599 filed 7 August 1989, incorporated herein by reference. Mature HCV protease is recovered upon expression of the vector in suitable hosts, particularly yeast.

Specifically, the yeast expression protocol described in Example 8 is used to express a ubiquitin/HCV protease vector.

Example 10
(Preparation of an In-Vitro Expression Vector)

(A)   pGEM®-3Z/Yellow Fever Leader Vector

Four synthetic DNA fragments were annealed and ligated** together to create a EcoRI/SacI Yellow Fever leader, which was ligated to a EcoRI/SacI digested pGEM®-3Z vector from Promega®. The sequence of the four fragments are listed below:

YFK-1:

5' AAT TCG TAA ATC CTG TGT GCT AAT TGA GGT GCA TTG GTC
TGC AAA TCG AGT TGC TAG GCA ATA AAC ACA TT 3'

YFK-2:

5' TAT TGC CTA GCA ACT CGA TTT GCA GAC CAA TGC ACC TCA ATT
AGC ACA CAG GAT TTA CG 3'

YFK-3:

5' TGG ATT AAT TTT AAT CGT TCG TTG AGC GAT TAG CAG AGA
ACT GAC CAG AAC ATG TCT GAG CT 3'

YFK-4:

5' CAG ACA TGT TCT GGT CAG TTC TCT GCT AAT CGC TCA ACG AAC
GAT TAA AAT TAA TCC AAA TGT GTT 3'.

For in-vitro translation of the HCV protease, the new pGEM®-3Z/Yellow Fever leader vector was digested with BamHI and blunted with Klenow.

(B)   PvuII Construct from p6000

A clone p6000 was constructed from sequences available from the genomic library of HCV cDNA, ATCC accession no. 40394. The HCV encoding

- 40 -

DNA sequence of p6000 is identical to nucleotide -275 to nucleotide 6372 of

Figure 17 of WO 90/11089, published 4 October 1990. p6000 was digested with

PvuII, and from the digest, a 2,864 bp fragment was isolated. This 2,864 bp

fragment was ligated to the prepared pGEM®-3Z/Yellow Fever leader vector

5   fragment, described above.

Example 11
(In-Vitro Expression of HCV Protease)
       (A)   Transcription

10   The pGEM®-3Z/Yellow Fever leader/PvuII vector was linearized

with XbaI and transcribed using the materials and protocols from Promega's

Riboprobe® Gemini II Core system.

       (B)   Translation

       The RNA produced by the above protocol was translated using

15   Promega's rabbit reticulocyte lysate, minus methionine, canine pancreatic

microsomal membranes, as well as, other necessary materials and instructions

from Promega.

20   Deposited Biological Materials:

       The following materials were deposited with the American Type

Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, Maryland:

Name	Deposit Date	Accession No.
25 E. coli D1210, cf1SODp600	23 Mar 1990	68275
Cf1/5-1-1 in E. coli D1210	11 May 1989	67967
30 Bacteriophage λ-gt11 cDNA library	01 Dec 1987	40394

- 41 -

E. coli HB101, pS356	29 Apr 1988	67683
plasmid DNA, pDM15	05 May 1988	40453
S. cerevisae, 2150-2-3 (pAB24-GAP-env2)	23 Dec 1986	20827

The above materials have been deposited with the ATCC under the accession numbers indicated. These deposits will be maintained under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro-organisms for purposes of Patent Procedure. These deposits are provided as a convenience to those of skill in the art, and are not an admission that a deposit is required under 35 U.S.C. §112. The polynucleotide sequences contained in the deposited materials, as well as the amino acid sequence of the polypeptides encoded thereby, are incorporated herein by reference and are controlling in the event of any conflict with the sequences described herein. A license may be required to make, use or sell the deposited materials, and no such license is granted hereby.

- 42 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1.   A composition comprising a purified proteolytic polypeptide derived from Hepatitis C virus.

5.

2.   The composition of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide has a partial internal sequence substantially as follows:

•••Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr•••.

10   3.   The composition of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide has a partial internal sequence substantially as follows:

•••Leu Lys Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu•••.

4.   The composition of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide has sub-
15   stantially the partial internal sequence:

Arg Arg Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys
Gly Trp Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly
Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln Val
Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu Ala Thr
20   Cys Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile
Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp
Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Pro Gln Gly Ser Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr
Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro
Val Arg Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile
25   Ser Tyr Leu Lys Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His
Ala Val Gly Ile Phe Arg Ala Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala
Val Asp Phe Ile Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg.

5.   The composition of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide has
30   substantially the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1.

- 43 -

6.   A fusion protein, comprising:

a suitable fusion partner, fused to

a proteolytic polypeptide derived from Hepatitis C virus.

5   7.   The fusion protein of claim 6, wherein said fusion partner

comprises human superoxide dismutase.

8.   The fusion protein of claim 6, wherein said proteolytic

polypeptide has a partial internal sequence substantially as follows:

10   •••Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr•••.

9.   The fusion protein of claim 6, wherein said proteolytic

polypeptide has a partial internal sequence substantially as follows:

          •••Leu Lys Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu•••.

15

10.   The fusion protein of claim 6, wherein said proteolytic

polypeptide has as a partial internal sequence:

          Arg Arg Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val
          Ser Lys Gly Trp Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln
20   Thr Arg Gly Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp
          Lys Asn Gln Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln
          Thr Phe Leu Ala Thr Cys Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His
          Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln
          Met Tyr Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Pro
25   Gln Gly Ser Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu
          Tyr Leu Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly
          Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys
          Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly
          Ile Phe Arg Ala Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp
30   Phe Ile Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg.

11.   The fusion protein of claim 6, wherein said fusion partner is ubiquitin.

- 44 -

12.   A composition comprising a polynucleotide which encodes only the HCV protease or an active HCV protease analog.

13.   The composition of claim 12, wherein said polynucleotide
5   encodes the HCV protease of Figure 1.

14.   A composition comprising a polynucleotide which encodes a fusion protein comprising:

        HCV protease or HCV protease analog; and
10   a fusion partner.

15.   The composition of claim 14, wherein said fusion partner is selected from the group consisting of hSOD, yeast α-factor, IL-2S, ubiquitin, ß-galactosidase, ß-lactamase, horseradish peroxidase, glucose oxidase, and urease.
15

16.   The composition of claim 14, wherein said HCV protease or HCV protease analog comprises a polypeptide having substantially the following sequence:

20
        Arg Arg Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val
        Ser Lys Gly Trp Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln
        Thr Arg Gly Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp
        Lys Asn Gln Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln
        Thr Phe Leu Ala Thr Cys Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His
25   Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln
        Met Tyr Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Pro
        Gln Gly Ser Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu
        Tyr Leu Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly
        Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys
        Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly
30   Ile Phe Arg Ala Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp
        Phe Ile Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg.

- 45 -

17.   The composition of claim 14, wherein said HCV protease or analog comprises a polypeptide having substantially the sequence:

Gly Thr Tyr Val Tyr Asn His Leu Thr Pro Leu Arg Asp Trp Ala
His Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp Leu Ala Val Ala Val Glu Pro Val Val
Phe Ser Gln Met Glu Thr Lys Leu Ile Thr Trp Gly Ala Asp Thr
Ala Ala Cys Gly Asp Ile Ile Asn Gly Leu Pro Val Ser Ala Arg Arg
Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys Gly
Trp Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly
Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln
Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu
Ala Thr Cys Ile Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala
Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr
Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Gly
Thr Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu
Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser
Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys Gly Ser
Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly Ile Phe
Arg Ala Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp Phe Ile
Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg Ser Pro Val Phe Thr
Asp Asn Ser Ser Pro Pro Val Val Pro Gln Ser Phe Gln Val Ala His
Leu His Ala Pro Thr Gly Ser Gly Lys Ser Thr Lys Val Pro Ala Ala.

18.   The composition of claim 14, wherein said polypeptide has substantially the sequence:

Gly Thr Tyr Val Tyr Asn His Leu Thr Pro Leu Arg Asp Trp Ala
His Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp Leu Ala Val Ala Val Glu Pro Val Val
Phe Ser Gln Met Glu Thr Lys Leu Ile Thr Trp Gly Ala Asp Thr
Ala Ala Cys Gly Asp Ile Ile Asn Gly Leu Pro Val Ser Ala Arg Arg
Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys Gly
Trp Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly
Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln
Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu
Ala Thr Cys Ile Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala
Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr
Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Gly
Thr Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu
Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg.

- 46 -

19.   A method for assaying compounds for activity against hepatitis C virus, comprising:

        providing an active hepatitis C virus protease;

        contacting said protease with a compound capable of inhibiting serine
5   protease activity; and

        measuring inhibition of the proteolytic activity of said hepatitis C virus protease.

20.   An expression vector for producing HCV protease or HCV
10 protease analogs in a host cell, which vector comprises:

        a polynucleotide encoding HCV protease or an HCV analog;

        transcriptional and translational regulatory sequences functional in said host cell operably linked to said HCV protease-encoding polynucleotide; and

        a selectable marker.
15

21.   The vector of claim 20, which further comprises a sequence encoding a fusion partner, linked to said HCV protease-encoding polynucleotide to form a fusion protein upon expression.

20   22.   The vector of claim 21, wherein said fusion partner is selected from the group consisting of hSOD, yeast α-factor, IL-2S, ubiquitin, ß-galactosidase, ß-lactamase, horseradish peroxidase, glucose oxidase, and urease.

23.   The vector of claim 22, wherein said fusion partner is selected
25 from the group consisting of ubiquitin, hSOD, and yeast α-factor.

- 47 -

24.   The vector of claim 20, wherein said HCV protease-encoding polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having the substantially the following sequence:

5

10

15

Arg Arg Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val
Ser Lys Gly Trp Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln
Thr Arg Gly Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp
Lys Asn Gln Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln
Thr Phe Leu Ala Thr Cys Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His
Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln
Met Tyr Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Pro
Gln Gly Ser Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu
Tyr Leu Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly
Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys
Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly
Ile Phe Arg Ala Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp
Phe Ile Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg.

25.   The vector of claim 20, wherein said HCV protease-encoding polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having the substantially the following sequence:

20

25

30

Gly Thr Tyr Val Tyr Asn His Leu Thr Pro Leu Arg Asp Trp Ala
His Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp Leu Ala Val Ala Val Glu Pro Val Val
Phe Ser Gln Met Glu Thr Lys Leu Ile Thr Trp Gly Ala Asp Thr
Ala Ala Cys Gly Asp Ile Ile Asn Gly Leu Pro Val Ser Ala Arg Arg
Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys Gly
Trp Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly
Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln
Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu
Ala Thr Cys Ile Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala
Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr
Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Gly
Thr Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu
Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg.

35

- 48 -

26.   The vector of claim 20, wherein said HCV protease-encoding polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having the substantially the following sequence:

```
        Gly Thr Tyr Val Tyr Asn His Leu Thr Pro Leu Arg Asp Trp Ala
  5     His Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp Leu Ala Val Ala Val Glu Pro Val Val
        Phe Ser Gln Met Glu Thr Lys Leu Ile Thr Trp Gly Ala Asp Thr
        Ala Ala Cys Gly Asp Ile Ile Asn Gly Leu Pro Val Ser Ala Arg Arg
        Gly Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys Gly
        Trp Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly
 10     Leu Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln
        Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu
        Ala Thr Cys Ile Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala
        Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr
        Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Gly
 15     Thr Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu
        Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser
        Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys Gly Ser
        Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly Ile Phe
        Arg Ala Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp Phe Ile
 20     Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg Ser Pro Val Phe Thr
        Asp Asn Ser Ser Pro Pro Val Val Pro Gln Ser Phe Gln Val Ala His
        Leu His Ala Pro Thr Gly Ser Gly Lys Ser Thr Lys Val Pro Ala Ala.
```

```
          1               5                  10
          Gly Thr Tyr Val Tyr Asn His Leu Thr Pro Leu Arg Asp Trp
      ATT CGG GGC ACC TAT GTT TAT AAC CAT CTC ACT CCT CTT CGG GAC TGG
      TAA GCC CCG TGG ATA CAA ATA TTG GTA GAG TGA GGA GAA GCC CTG ACC


      15               20                  25                  30
      Ala His Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp Leu Ala Val Ala Val Glu Pro Val Val
      GCG CAC AAC GGC TTG CGA GAT CTG GCC GTG GCT GTA GAG CCA GTC GTC
      CGC GTG TTG CCG AAC GCT CTA GAC CGG CAC CGA CAT CTC GGT CAG CAG


                      35                  40                  45
      Phe Ser Gln Met Glu Thr Lys Leu Ile Thr Trp Gly Ala Asp Thr Ala
      TTC TCC CAA ATG GAG ACC AAG CTC ATC ACG TGG GGG GCA GAT ACC GCC
      AAG AGG GTT TAC CTC TGG TTC GAG TAG TGC ACC CCC CGT CTA TGG CGG


                      50                  55                  60
      Ala Cys Gly Asp Ile Ile Asn Gly Leu Pro Val Ser Ala Arg Arg Gly
      GCG TGC GGT GAC ATC ATC AAC GGC TTG CCT GTT TCC GCC CGC AGG GGC
      CGC ACG CCA CTG TAG TAG TTG CCG AAC GGA CAA AGG CGG GCG TCC CCG


              65                  70                  75
      Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys Gly Trp
      CGG GAG ATA CTG CTC GGG CCA GCC GAT GGA ATG GTC TCC AAG GGT TGG
      GCC CTC TAT GAC GAG CCC GGT CGG CTA CCT TAC CAG AGG TTC CCA ACC


          80                  85                  90
      Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly Leu
      AGG TTG CTG GCG CCC ATC ACG GCG TAC GCC CAG CAG ACA AGG GGC CTC
      TCC AAC GAC CGC GGG TAG TGC CGC ATG CGG GTC GTC TGT TCC CCG GAG


      95               100                 105                 110
      Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln Val
      CTA GGG TGC ATA ATC ACC AGC CTA ACT GGC CGG GAC AAA AAC CAA GTG
      GAT CCC ACG TAT TAG TGG TCG GAT TGA CCG GCC CTG TTT TTG GTT CAC


                      115                 120                 125
      Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu Ala
      GAG GGT GAG GTC CAG ATT GTG TCA ACT GCT GCC CAA ACC TTC CTG GCA
      CTC CCA CTC CAG GTC TAA CAC AGT TGA CGA CGG GTT TGG AAG GAC CGT
```

Figure 1

```
                130                      135                    140
Thr Cys Ile Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala Gly
ACG TGC ATC ATC AAT GGG GTG TGC TGG ACT GTC TAC CAC GGG GCC GGA
TGC ACG TAG TAG TTA CCC CAC ACG ACC TGA CAG ATG GTG CCC CGG CCT


                145                      150                    155
Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr Thr
ACG AGG ACC ATC GCG TCA CCC AAG GGT CCT GTC ATC CAG ATG TAT ACC
TGC TCC TGG TAG CGC AGT GGG TTC CCA GGA CAG TAG GTC TAC ATA TGG


        160                      165                    170
Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Gly Thr Arg
AAT GTA GAC CAA GAC CTT GTG GGC TGG CCC GCT TCG CAA GGT ACC CGC
TTA CAT CTG GTT CTG GAA CAC CCG ACC GGG CGA AGC GTT CCA TGG GCG


175                      180                      185                    190
Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu Val Thr
TCA TTG ACA CCC TGC ACT TGC GGC TCC TCG GAC CTT TAC CTG GTC ACG
AGT AAC TGT GGG ACG TGA ACG CCG AGG AGC CTG GAA ATG GAC CAG TGC


                195                      200                    205
Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser Arg Gly
AGG CAC GCC GAT GTC ATT CCC GTG CGC CGG CGG GGT GAT AGC AGG GGC
TCC GTG CGG CTA CAG TAA GGG CAC GCG GCC GCC CCA CTA TCG TCC CCG
                                        ↑
                                      NaeI


                210                      215                    220
Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys Gly Ser Ser Gly
AGC CTG CTG TCG CCC CGG CCC ATT TCC TAC TTG AAA GGC TCC TCG GGG
TCG GAC GAC AGC GGG GCC GGG TAA AGG ATG AAC TTT CCG AGG AGC CCC


                225                      230                    235
Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly Ile Phe Arg Ala
GGT CCG CTG TTG TGC CCC GCG GGG CAC GCC GTG GGC ATA TTT AGG GCC
CCA GGC GAC AAC ACG GGG CGC CCC GTG CGG CAC CCG TAT AAA TCC CGG


240                      245                      250
Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp Phe Ile Pro Val
GCG GTG TGC ACC CGT GGA GTG GCT AAG GCG GTG GAC TTT ATC CCT GTG
CGC CAC ACG TGG GCA CCT CAC CGA TTC CGC CAC CTG AAA TAG GGA CAC
```

Figure 1 (continued)

```
     255                    260                      265                    270
Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg Ser Pro Val Phe Thr Asp Asn Ser
GAG AAC CTA GAG ACA ACC ATG AGG TCC CCG GTG TTC ACG GAT AAC TCC
CTC TTG GAT CTC TGT TGG TAC TCC AGG GGC CAC AAG TGC CTA TTG AGG


                  275                    280                      285
Ser Pro Pro Val Val Pro Gln Ser Phe Gln Val Ala His Leu His Ala
TCT CCA CCA GTA GTG CCC CAG AGC TTC CAG GTG GCT CAC CTC CAT GCT
AGA GGT GGT CAT CAC GGG GTC TCG AAG GTC CAC CGA GTG GAG GTA CGA


               290                    295                      300
Pro Thr Gly Ser Gly Lys Ser Thr Lys Val Pro Ala Ala Tyr Ala Ala
CCC ACA GGC AGC GGC AAA AGC ACC AAG GTC CCG GCT GCA TAT GCA GCT
GGG TGT CCG TCG CCG TTT TCG TGG TTC CAG GGC CGA CGT ATA CGT CGA
                                                    ↑
                                                   NdeI


               305                    310                      315
Gln Gly Tyr Lys Val Leu Val Leu Asn Pro Ser Val Ala Ala Thr Leu
CAG GGC TAT AAG GTG CTA GTA CTC AAC CCC TCT GTT GCT GCA ACA CTG
GTC CCG ATA TTC CAC GAT CAT GAG TTG GGG AGA CAA CGA CGT TGT GAC


            320                    325                      330
Gly Phe Gly Ala Tyr Met Ser Lys Ala His Gly Ile Asp Pro Asn Ile
GGC TTT GGT GCT TAC ATG TCC AAG GCT CAT GGG ATC GAT CCT AAC ATC
CCG AAA CCA CGA ATG TAC AGG TTC CGA GTA CCC TAG CTA GGA TTG TAG


335                    340                      345                    350
Arg Thr Gly Val Arg Thr Ile Thr Thr Gly Ser Pro Ile Thr Tyr Ser
AGG ACC GGG GTG AGA ACA ATT ACC ACT GGC AGC CCC ATC ACG TAC TCC
TCC TGG CCC CAC TCT TGT TAA TGG TGA CCG TCG GGG TAG TGC ATG AGG


                  355                    360                      365
Thr Tyr Gly Lys Phe Leu Ala Asp Gly Gly Cys Ser Gly Gly Ala Tyr
ACC TAC GGC AAG TTC CTT GCC GAC GGC GGG TGC TCG GGG GGC GCT TAT
TGG ATG CCG TTC AAG GAA CGG CTG CCG CCC ACG AGC CCC CCG CGA ATA


               370                    375                      380
Asp Ile Ile Ile Cys Asp Glu Cys His Ser Thr Asp Ala Thr Ser Ile
GAC ATA ATA ATT TGT GAC GAG TGC CAC TCC ACG GAT GCC ACA TCC ATC
CTG TAT TAT TAA ACA CTG CTC ACG GTG AGG TGC CTA CGG TGT AGG TAG
```

Figure 1 (continued)

```
         385                               390                               395
  Leu Gly Ile Gly Thr Val Leu Asp Gln Ala Glu Thr Ala Gly Ala Arg
  TTG GGC ATT GGC ACT GTC CTT GAC CAA GCA GAG ACT GCG GGG GCG AGA
  AAC CCG TAA CCG TGA CAG GAA CTG GTT CGT CTC TGA CGC CCC CGC TCT


         400                               405                               410
  Leu Val Val Leu Ala Thr Ala Thr Pro Pro Gly Ser Val Thr Val Pro
  CTG GTT GTG CTC GCC ACC GCC ACC CCT CCG GGC TCC GTC ACT GTG CCC
  GAC CAA CAC GAG CGG TGG CGG TGG GGA GGC CCG AGG CAG TGA CAC GGG


  415                         420                         425                         430
  His Pro Asn Ile Glu Glu Val Ala Leu Ser Thr Thr Gly Glu Ile Pro
  CAT CCC AAC ATC GAG GAG GTT GCT CTG TCC ACC ACC GGA GAG ATC CCT
  GTA GGG TTG TAG CTC CTC CAA CGA GAC AGG TGG TGG CCT CTC TAG GGA


                         435                         440                         445
  Phe Tyr Gly Lys Ala Ile Pro Leu Glu Val Ile Lys Gly Gly Arg His
  TTT TAC GGC AAG GCT ATC CCC CTC GAA GTA ATC AAG GGG GGG AGA CAT
  AAA ATG CCG TTC CGA TAG GGG GAG CTT CAT TAG TTC CCC CCC TCT GTA


                     450                         455                         460
  Leu Ile Phe Cys His Ser Lys Lys Lys Cys Asp Glu Leu Ala Ala Lys
  CTC ATC TTC TGT CAT TCA AAG AAG AAG TGC GAC GAA CTC GCC GCA AAG
  GAG TAG AAG ACA GTA AGT TTC TTC TTC ACG CTG CTT GAG CGG CGT TTC


                 465                         470                         475
  Leu Val Ala Leu Gly Ile Asn Ala Val Ala Tyr Tyr Arg Gly Leu Asp
  CTG GTC GCA TTG GGC ATC AAT GCC GTG GCC TAC TAC CGC GGT CTT GAC
  GAC CAG CGT AAC CCG TAG TTA CGG CAC CGG ATG ATG GCG CCA GAA CTG


         480                         485                         490
  Val Ser Val Ile Pro Thr Ser Gly Asp Val Val Val Val Ala Thr Asp
  GTG TCC GTC ATC CCG ACC AGC GGC GAT GTT GTC GTC GTG GCA ACC GAT
  CAC AGG CAG TAG GGC TGG TCG CCG CTA CAA CAG CAG CAC CGT TGG CTA
```

Figure 1 (continued)

```
        495                        500                       505                          510
 Ala Leu Met Thr Gly Tyr Thr Gly Asp Phe Asp Ser Val Ile Asp Cys
 GCC CTC ATG ACC GGC TAT ACC GGC GAC TTC GAC TCG GTG ATA GAC TGC
 CGG GAG TAC TGG CCG ATA TGG CCG CTG AAG CTG AGC CAC TAT CTG ACG


                          515                        520                          525
 Asn Thr Cys Val Thr Gln Thr Val Asp Phe Ser Leu Asp Pro Thr Phe
 AAT ACG TGT GTC ACC CAG ACA GTC GAT TTC AGC CTT GAC CCT ACC TTC
 TTA TGC ACA CAG TGG GTC TGT CAG CTA AAG TCG GAA CTG GGA TGG AAG


                   530                        535                       540
 Thr Ile Glu Thr Ile Thr Leu Pro Gln Asp Ala Val Ser Arg Thr Gln
 ACC ATT GAG ACA ATC ACG CTC CCC CAA GAT GCT GTC TCC CGC ACT CAA
 TGG TAA CTC TGT TAG TGC GAG GGG GTT CTA CGA CAG AGG GCG TGA GTT


          545                        550                       555
 Arg Arg Gly Arg Thr Gly Arg Gly Lys Pro Gly Ile Tyr Arg Phe Val
 CGT CGG GGC AGG ACT GGC AGG GGG AAG CCA GGC ATC TAC AGA TTT GTG
 GCA GCC CCG TCC TGA CCG TCC CCC TTC GGT CCG TAG ATG TCT AAA CAC


          560                        565                       570
 Ala Pro Gly Glu Arg Pro Pro Gly Met Phe Asp Ser Ser Val Leu Cys
 GCA CCG GGG GAG CGC CCT CCC GGC ATG TTC GAC TCG TCC GTC CTC TGT
 CGT GGC CCC CTC GCG GGA GGG CCG TAC AAG CTG AGC AGG CAG GAG ACA


 575                        580                       585                          590
 Glu Cys Tyr Asp Ala Gly Cys Ala Trp Tyr Glu Leu Thr Pro Ala Glu
 GAG TGC TAT GAC GCA GGC TGT GCT TGG TAT GAG CTC ACG CCC GCC GAG
 CTC ACG ATA CTG CGT CCG ACA CGA ACC ATA CTC GAG TGC GGG CGG CTC


                   595                        600                          605
 Thr Thr Val Arg Leu Arg Ala Tyr Met Asn Thr Pro Gly Leu Pro Val
 ACT ACA GTT AGG CTA CGA GCG TAC ATG AAC ACC CCG GGG CTT CCC GTG
 TGA TGT CAA TCC GAT GCT CGC ATG TAC TTG TGG GGC CCC GAA GGG CAC
```

Figure 1 (continued)

```
                    610                         615                         620
    Cys Gln Asp His Leu Glu Phe Trp Glu Gly Val Phe Thr Gly Leu Thr
    TGC CAG GAC CAT CTT GAA TTT TGG GAG GGC GTC TTT ACA GGC CTC ACT
    ACG GTC CTG GTA GAA CTT AAA ACC CTC CCG CAG AAA TGT CCG GAG TGA


                    625                         630                         635
    His Ile Asp Ala His Phe Leu Ser Gln Thr Lys Gln Ser Gly Glu Asn
    CAT ATA GAT GCC CAC TTT CTA TCC CAG ACA AAG CAG AGT GGG GAG AAC
    GTA TAT CTA CGG GTG AAA GAT AGG GTC TGT TTC GTC TCA CCC CTC TTG


                    640                         645                         650
    Leu Pro Tyr Leu Val Ala Tyr Gln Ala Thr Val Cys Ala Arg Ala Gln
    CTT CCT TAC CTG GTA GCG TAC CAA GCC ACC GTG TGC GCT AGG GCT CAA
    GAA GGA ATG GAC CAT CGC ATG GTT CGG TGG CAC ACG CGA TCC CGA GTT


    655                         660                         665                         670
    Ala Pro Pro Pro Ser Trp Asp Gln Met Trp Lys Cys Leu Ile Arg Leu
    GCC CCT CCC CCA TCG TGG GAC CAG ATG TGG AAG TGT TTG ATT CGC CTC
    CGG GGA GGG GGT AGC ACC CTG GTC TAC ACC TTC ACA AAC TAA GCG GAG


                    675                         680                         685
    Lys Pro Thr Leu His Gly Pro Thr Pro Leu Leu Tyr Arg Leu Gly Ala
    AAG CCC ACC CTC CAT GGG CCA ACA CCC CTG CTA TAC AGA CTG GGC GCT
    TTC GGG TGG GAG GTA CCC GGT TGT GGG GAC GAT ATG TCT GAC CCG CGA
```

Figure 1 (continued)

```
Asn Ser Glu Asn Gln Val Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala
AAT TCG GAA AAC CAA GTG GAG GGT GAG GTC CAG ATT GTG TCA ACT GCT
TTA AGC CTT TTG GTT CAC CTC CCA CTC CAG GTC TAA CAC AGT TGA CGA
 ↑
EcoRI


Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu Ala Thr Cys Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val
GCC CAA ACC TTC CTG GCA ACG TGC ATC AAT GGG GTG TGC TGG ACT GTC
CGG GTT TGG AAG GAC CGT TGC ACG TAG TTA CCC CAC ACG ACC TGA CAG
                             ↑
                           SfaNI


Tyr His Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val
TAC CAC GGG GCC GGA ACG AGG ACC ATC GCG TCA CCC AAG GGT CCT GTC
ATG GTG CCC CGG CCT TGC TCC TGG TAG CGC AGT GGG TTC CCA GGA CAG


Ile Gln Met Tyr Thr Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala
ATC CAG ATG TAT ACC AAT GTA GAC CAA GAC CTT GTG GGC TGG CCC GCT
TAG GTC TAC ATA TGG TTA CAT CTG GTT CTG GAA CAC CCG ACC GGG CGA


Ser Gln Gly Thr Arg Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp
TCG CAA GGT ACC CGC TCA TTG ACA CCC TGC ACT TGC GGC TCC TCG GAC
AGC GTT CCA TGG GCG AGT AAC TGT GGG ACG TGA ACG CCG AGG AGC CTG


Leu Tyr Leu Val Thr Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val·Arg Arg Arg
CTT TAC CTG GTC ACG AGG CAC GCC GAT GTC ATT CCC GTG CGC CGG CGG
GAA ATG GAC CAG TGC TCC GTG CGG CTA CAG TAA GGG CAC GCG GCC GCC
                                                      ↑
                                                    NaeI

Gly Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu Val Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu
GGT GAT AGC AGG GGC AGC CTC GTG TCG CCC CGG CCC ATT TCC TAC TTG
CCA CTA TCG TCC CCG TCG GAG CAC AGC GGG GCC GGG TAA AGG ATG AAC


Lys Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu Pro Asn
AAA GGC TCC TCG GGG GGT CCG CTG CCG AAT TC
TTT CCG AGG AGC CCC CCA GGC GAC GGC TTA AG
                                    ↑
                                  EcoRI
```

Figure 2

C26d:

```
Glu Phe Gly Gly Leu Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Ala Ala Val Gly Ile Phe
GAA TTC GGG GGC CTG CTG TTG TGC CCC GCG GCA GCC GTG GGC ATA TTT
CTT AAG CCC CCG GAC GAC AAC ACG GGG CGC CGT CGG CAC CCG TAT AAA
↑
EcoRI
```

```
Arg Ala Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp Phe Ile
AGG GCC GCG GTG TGC ACC CGT GGA GTG GCT AAG GCG GTG GAC TTT ATC
TCC CGG CGC CAC ACG TGG GCA CCT CAC CGA TTC CGC CAC CTG AAA TAG
                                    ↑
                                   DdeI
```

```
Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg Ser Pro Val Phe Thr Asp
CCT GTG GAG AAC CTA GAG ACA ACC ATG AGG TCC CCG GTG TTC ACG GAT
GGA CAC CTC TTG GAT CTC TGT TGG TAC TCC AGG GGC CAC AAG TGC CTA
```

```
Asn Ser Ser Pro Pro Val Val Pro Gln Ser Phe Gln Val Ala His Leu
AAC TCC TCT CCA CCA GTA GTG CCC CAG AGC TTC CAG GTG GCT CAC CTC
TTG AGG AGA GGT GGT CAT CAC GGG GTC TCG AAG GTC CAC CGA GTG GAG
                                        ↑
                                      EcoRII
```

```
His Ala Pro Arg Ile
CAT GCT CCC CGA ATT C
GTA CGA GGG GCT TAA G
            ↑
          EcoRI
```

Figure 3

C8h:

```
Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu Val Thr Arg His Ala
CCC TGC ACT TGC GGC TCC TCG GAC CTT TAC CTG GTC ACG AGG CAC GCC
GGG ACG TGA ACG CCG AGG AGC CTG GAA ATG GAC CAG TGC TCC GTG CGG


Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu
GAT GTC ATT CCC GTG CGC CGG CGG GGT GAT AGC AGG GGC AGC CTG CTG
CTA CAG TAA GGG CAC GCG GCC GCC CCA CTA TCG TCC CCG TCG GAC GAC


Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro Leu
TCG CCC CGG CCC ATT TCC TAC TTG AAA GGC TCC TCG GGG GGT CCG CTG
AGC GGG GCC GGG TAA AGG ATG AAC TTT CCG AGG AGC CCC CCA GGC GAC


Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly Ile Phe Arg Ala Ala Val Cys
TTG TGC CCC GCG GGG CAC GCC GTG GGC ATA TTT AGG GCC GCG GTG TGC
AAC ACG GGG CGC CCC GTG CGG CAC CCG TAT AAA TCC CGG CGC CAC ACG


Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp Phe Ile Pro Val Glu Asn Leu
ACC CGT GGA GTG GCT AAG GCG GTG GAC TTT ATC CCT GTG GAG AAC CTA
TGG GCA CCT CAC CGA TTC CGC CAC CTG AAA TAG GGA CAC CTC TTG GAT
                          ↑
                        DdeI

Glu Thr Thr Met Arg Ser Pro Val Phe Thr Asp Asn Ser
GAG ACA ACC ATG AGG TCC CCG GTG TTC ACG GAT AAC TCC TC
CTC TGT TGG TAC TCC AGG GGC CAC AAG TGC CTA TTG AGG AG
```


Figure 4

C7f:

```
Ile Arg Gly Thr Tyr Val Tyr Asn His Leu Thr Pro Leu Arg Asp Trp
ATT CGG GGC ACC TAT GTT TAT AAC CAT CTC ACT CCT CTT CGG GAC TGG
TAA GCC CCG TGG ATA CAA ATA TTG GTA GAG TGA GGA GAA GCC CTG ACC
 ↑
EcoRI


Ala His Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp Leu Ala Val Ala Val Glu Pro Val Val
GCG CAC AAC GGC TTG CGA GAT CTG GCC GTG GCT GTA GAG CCA GTC GTC
CGC GTG TTG CCG AAC GCT CTA GAC CGG CAC CGA CAT CTC GGT CAG CAG


Phe Ser Gln Met Glu Thr Lys Leu Ile Thr Trp Gly Ala Asp Thr Ala
TTC TCC CAA ATG GAG ACC AAG CTC ATC ACG TGG GGG GCA GAT ACC GCC
AAG AGG GTT TAC CTC TGG TTC GAG TAG TGC ACC CCC CGT CTA TGG CGG


Ala Cys Gly Asp Ile Ile Asn Gly Leu Pro Val Ser Ala Arg Arg Gly
GCG TGC GGT GAC ATC ATC AAC GGC TTG CCT GTT TCC GCC CGC AGG GGC
CGC ACG CCA CTG TAG TAG TTG CCG AAC GGA CAA AGG CGG GCG TCC CCG


Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys Gly Trp
CGG GAG ATA CTG CTC GGG CCA GCC GAT GGA ATG GTC TCC AAG GGT TGG
GCC CTC TAT GAC GAG CCC GGT CGG CTA CCT TAC CAG AGG TTC CCA ACC


Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly Leu
AGG TTG CTG GCG CCC ATC ACG GCG TAC GCC CAG CAG ACA AGG GGC CTC
TCC AAC GAC CGC GGG TAG TGC CGC ATG CGG GTC GTC TGT TCC CCG GAG


Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln Val
CTA GGG TGC ATA ATC ACC AGC CTA ACT GGC CGG GAC AAA AAC CAA GTG
GAT CCC ACG TAT TAG TGG TCG GAT TGA CCG GCC CTG TTT TTG GTT CAC


Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu Ala
GAG GGT GAG GTC CAG ATT GTG TCA ACT GCT GCC CAA ACC TTC CTG GCA
CTC CCA CTC CAG GTC TAA CAC AGT TGA CGA CGG GTT TGG AAG GAC CGT


Thr Cys Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Pro Asn
ACG TGC ATC AAT GGG GTG TGC TGG CCG AAT TC
TGC ACG TAG TTA CCC CAC ACG ACC GGC TTA AG
     ↑                             ↑
   SfaNI                         EcoRI
```

Figure 5

C31:

```
Glu Phe Gly Ser Val Ile Pro Thr Ser Gly Asp Val Val Val Val Ala
GAA TTC GGG TCC GTC ATC CCG ACC AGC GGC GAT GTT GTC GTC GTC GCA
CTT AAG CCC AGG CAG TAG GGC TGG TCG CCG CTA CAA CAG CAG CAG CGT
    ↑
EcoRI
```

```
Thr Asp Ala Leu Met Thr Gly Tyr Thr Gly Asp Phe Asp Ser Val Ile
ACC GAT GCC CTC ATG ACC GGC TAT ACC GGC GAC TTC GAC TCG GTG ATA
TGG CTA CGG GAG TAC TGG CCG ATA TGG CCG CTG AAG CTG AGC CAC TAT
                                                ↑
                                              HinfI
```

```
Asp Cys Asn Thr Cys Val Thr Gln Thr Val Asp Phe Ser Leu Asp Pro
GAC TGC AAT ACG TGT GTC ACC CAG ACA GTC GAT TTC AGC CTT GAC CCT
CTG ACG TTA TGC ACA CAG TGG GTC TGT CAG CTA AAG TCG GAA CTG GGA
```

```
Thr Phe Thr Ile Glu Thr Ile Thr Leu Pro Gln Asp Ala Val Ser Arg
ACC TTC ACC ATT GAG ACA ATC ACG CTC CCC CAA GAT GCT GTC TCC CGC
TGG AAG TGG TAA CTC TGT TAG TGC GAG GGG GTT CTA CGA CAG AGG GCG
```

```
Thr Gln Arg Arg Gly Arg Thr Gly Arg Gly Lys Pro Gly Ile Tyr Arg
ACT CAA CGT CGG GGC AGG ACT GGC AGG GGG AAG CCA GGC ATC TAC AGA
TGA GTT GCA GCC CCG TCC TGA CCG TCC CCC TTC GGT CCG TAG ATG TCT
```

```
Phe Val Ala Pro Gly Glu Arg Pro Ser Gly Met Phe Asp Ser Ser Val
TTT GTG GCA CCG GGG GAG CGC CCC TCC GGC ATG TTC GAC TCG TCC GTC
AAA CAC CGT GGC CCC CTC GCG GGG AGG CCG TAC AAG CTG AGC AGG CAG
                        ↑                           ↑
                      BglI                        HinfI
```

```
Leu Cys Glu Cys Pro Asn
CTC TGT GAG TGC CCG AAT TC
GAG ACA CTC ACG GGC TTA AG
                ↑
              EcoRI
```

Figure 6

C15:

```
Ile Arg Ser Ile Glu Thr Ile Thr Leu Pro Gln Asp Ala Val Ser Arg
ATT CGG TCC ATT GAG ACA ATC ACG CTC CCC CAG GAT GCT GTC TCC CGC
TAA GCC AGG TAA CTC TGT TAG TGC GAG GGG GTC CTA CGA CAG AGG GCG
↑
EcoRI


Thr Gln Arg Arg Gly Arg Thr Gly Arg Gly Lys Pro Gly Ile Tyr Arg
ACT CAA CGT CGG GGC AGG ACT GGC AGG. GGG AAG CCA GGC ATC TAC AGA
TGA GTT GCA GCC CCG TCC TGA CCG TCC CCC TTC GGT CCG TAG ATG TCT

Phe Val Ala Pro Gly Glu Arg Pro Ser Gly Met Phe Asp Ser Ser Val
TTT GTG GCA CCG GGG GAG CGC CCC TCC GGC ATG TTC GAC TCG TCC GTC
AAA CAC CGT GGC CCC CTC GCG GGG AGG CCG TAC AAG CTG AGC AGG CAG
                      ↑
                    BglI

Leu Cys Glu Cys Tyr Asp Ala Gly Cys Ala Trp Tyr Glu Leu Thr Pro
CTC TGT GAG TGC TAT GAC GCA GGC TGT GCT TGG TAT GAG CTC ACG CCC
GAG ACA CTC ACG ATA CTG CGT CCG ACA CGA ACC ATA CTC GAG TGC GGG

Ala Glu Thr Thr Val Arg Leu Arg Ala Tyr Met Asn Thr Pro Gly Leu
GCC GAG ACT ACA GTT AGG CTA CGA GCG TAC ATG AAC ACC CCG GGG CTT
CGG CTC TGA TGT CAA TCC GAT GCT CGC ATG TAC TTG TGG GGC CCC GAA

Pro Val Cys Gln Asp His Leu Glu Phe Trp Glu Gly Val Phe Thr Gly
CCC GTG TGC CAG GAC CAT CTT GAA TTT TGG GAG GGC GTC TTT ACA GGC
GGG CAC ACG GTC CTG GTA GAA CTT AAA ACC CTC CCG CAG AAA TGT CCG

Leu Thr His Ile Asp Ala His Phe Leu Ser Gln Thr Lys Gln Ser Gly
CTC ACT CAT ATA GAT GCC CAC TTT CTA TCC CAG ACA AAG CAG AGT GGG
GAG TGA GTA TAT CTA CGG GTG AAA GAT AGG GTC TGT TTC GTC TCA CCC

Glu Asn Leu Pro Tyr Leu Val Ala Tyr Gln Ala Thr Val Cys Ala Arg
GAG AAC CTT CCT TAC CTG GTA GCG TAC CAA GCC ACC GTG TGC GCT AGG
CTC TTG GAA GGA ATG GAC CAT CGC ATG GTT CGG TGG CAC ACG CGA TCC

Ala Gln Ala Pro Pro Pro Ser Trp Asp Gln Met Trp Lys Cys Leu Ile
GCT CAA GCC CCT CCC CCA TCG TGG GAC CAG ATG TGG AAG TGT TTG ATT
CGA GTT CGG GGA GGG GGT AGC ACC CTG GTC TAC ACC TTC ACA AAC TAA

Arg Leu Lys Pro Thr Leu His Gly Pro Thr Pro Leu Leu Tyr Arg Leu
CGC CTC AAG CCC ACC CTC CAT GGG CCA ACA CCC CTG CTA TAC AGA CTG
GCG GAG TTC GGG TGG GAG GTA CCC GGT TGT GGG GAC GAT ATG TCT GAC

Gly Ala Ala Glu Phe
GGC GCT GCC GAA TTC
CCG CGA CGG CTT AAG
              ↑
            EcoRI
```

<center>Figure 7</center>

C33c:

```
Glu Phe Gly Ala Val Asp Phe Ile Pro Val Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr
GAA TTC GGG GCG GTG GAC TTT ATC CCT GTG GAG AAC CTA GAG ACA ACC
CTT AAG CCC CGC CAC CTG AAA TAG GGA CAC CTC TTG GAT CTC TGT TGG
 ↑
EcoRI

Met Arg Ser Pro Val Phe Thr Asp Asn Ser Ser Pro Pro Val Val Pro
ATG AGG TCC CCG GTG TTC ACG GAT AAC TCC TCT CCA CCA GTA GTG CCC
TAC TCC AGG GGC CAC AAG TGC CTA TTG AGG AGA GGT GGT CAT CAC GGG

Gln Ser Phe Gln Val Ala His Leu His Ala Pro Thr Gly Ser Gly Lys
CAG AGC TTC CAG GTG GCT CAC CTC CAT GCT CCC ACA GGC AGC GGC AAA
GTC TCG AAG GTC CAC CGA GTG GAG GTA CGA GGG TGT CCG TCG CCG TTT

Ser Thr Lys Val Pro Ala Ala Tyr Ala Ala Gln Gly Tyr Lys Val Leu
AGC ACC AAG GTC CCG GCT GCA TAT GCA GCT CAG GGC TAT AAG GTG CTA
TCG TGG TTC CAG GGC CGA CGT ATA CGT CGA GTC CCG ATA TTC CAC GAT

Val Leu Asn Pro Ser Val Ala Ala Thr Leu Gly Phe Gly Ala Tyr Met
GTA CTC AAC CCC TCT GTT GCT GCA ACA CTG GGC TTT GGT GCT TAC ATG
CAT GAG TTG GGG AGA CAA CGA CGT TGT GAC CCG AAA CCA CGA ATG TAC

Ser Lys Ala His Gly Ile Asp Pro Asn Ile Arg Thr Gly Val Arg Thr
TCC AAG GCT CAT GGG ATC GAT CCT AAC ATC AGG ACC GGG GTG AGA ACA
AGG TTC CGA GTA CCC TAG CTA GGA TTG TAG TCC TGG CCC CAC TCT TGT

Ile Thr Thr Gly Ser Pro Ile Thr Tyr Ser Thr Tyr Gly Lys Phe Leu
ATT ACC ACT GGC AGC CCC ATC ACG TAC TCC ACC TAC GGC AAG TTC CTT
TAA TGG TGA CCG TCG GGG TAG TGC ATG AGG TGG ATG CCG TTC AAG GAA

Ala Asp Gly Gly Cys Ser Gly Gly Ala Tyr Asp Ile Ile Ile Cys Asp
GCC GAC GGC GGG TGC TCG GGG GGC GCT TAT GAC ATA ATA ATT TGT GAC
CGG CTG CCG CCC ACG AGC CCC CCG CGA ATA CTG TAT TAT TAA ACA CTG

Glu Cys His Ser Thr Asp Ala Thr Ser Ile Leu Gly Ile Gly Thr Val
GAG TGC CAC TCC ACG GAT GCC ACA TCC ATC TTG GGC ATT GGC ACT GTC
CTC ACG GTG AGG TGC CTA CGG TGT AGG TAG AAC CCG TAA CCG TGA CAG
```

Figure 8

```
Leu Asp Gln Ala Glu Thr Ala Gly Ala Arg Leu Val Val Leu Ala Thr
CTT GAC CAA GCA GAG ACT GCG GGG GCG AGA CTG GTT GTG CTC GCC ACC
GAA CTG GTT CGT CTC TGA CGC CCC CGC TCT GAC CAA CAC GAG CGG TGG


Ala Thr Pro Pro Gly Ser Val Thr Val Pro His Pro Asn Ile Glu Glu
GCC ACC CCT CCG GGC TCC GTC ACT GTG CCC CAT CCC AAC ATC GAG GAG
CGG TGG GGA GGC CCG AGG CAG TGA CAC GGG GTA GGG TTG TAG CTC CTC


Val Ala Leu Ser Thr Thr Gly Glu Ile Pro Phe Tyr Gly Lys Ala Ile
GTT GCT CTG TCC ACC ACC GGA GAG ATC CCT TTT TAC GGC AAG GCT ATC
CAA CGA GAC AGG TGG TGG CCT CTC TAG GGA AAA ATG CCG TTC CGA TAG


Pro Leu Glu Val Ile Lys Gly Gly Arg His Leu Ile Phe Cys His Ser
CCC CTC GAA GTA ATC AAG GGG GGG AGA CAT CTC ATC TTC TGT CAT TCA
GGG GAG CTT CAT TAG TTC CCC CCC TCT GTA GAG TAG AAG ACA GTA AGT


Lys Lys Lys Cys Asp Glu Leu Ala Ala Lys Leu Val Ala Leu Gly Ile
AAG AAG AAG TGC GAC GAA CTC GCC GCA AAG CTG GTC GCA TTG GGC ATC
TTC TTC TTC ACG CTG CTT GAG CGG CGT TTC GAC CAG CGT AAC CCG TAG


Asn Ala Val Ala Tyr Tyr Arg Gly Leu Asp Val Ser Val Ile Pro Thr
AAT GCC GTG GCC TAC TAC CGC GGT CTT GAC GTG TCC GTC ATC CCG ACC
TTA CGG CAC CGG ATG ATG GCG CCA GAA CTG CAC AGG CAG TAG GGC TGG


Ser Gly Asp Val Val Val Val Ala Thr Asp Ala Leu Met Thr Gly Tyr
AGC GGC GAT GTT GTC GTC GTG GCA ACC GAT GCC CTC ATG ACC GGC TAT
TCG CCG CTA CAA CAG CAG CAC CGT TGG CTA CGG GAG TAC TGG CCG ATA


Thr Gly Asp Phe Asp Ser Val Ile Asp Cys Asn Thr Cys Ala Glu Phe
ACC GGC GAC TTC GAC TCG GTG ATA GAC TGC AAT ACG TGT GCC GAA TTC
TGG CCG CTG AAG CTG AGC CAC TAT CTG ACG TTA TGC ACA CGG CTT AAG
                    ↑                                          ↑
                  HinfI                                      EcoRI
```
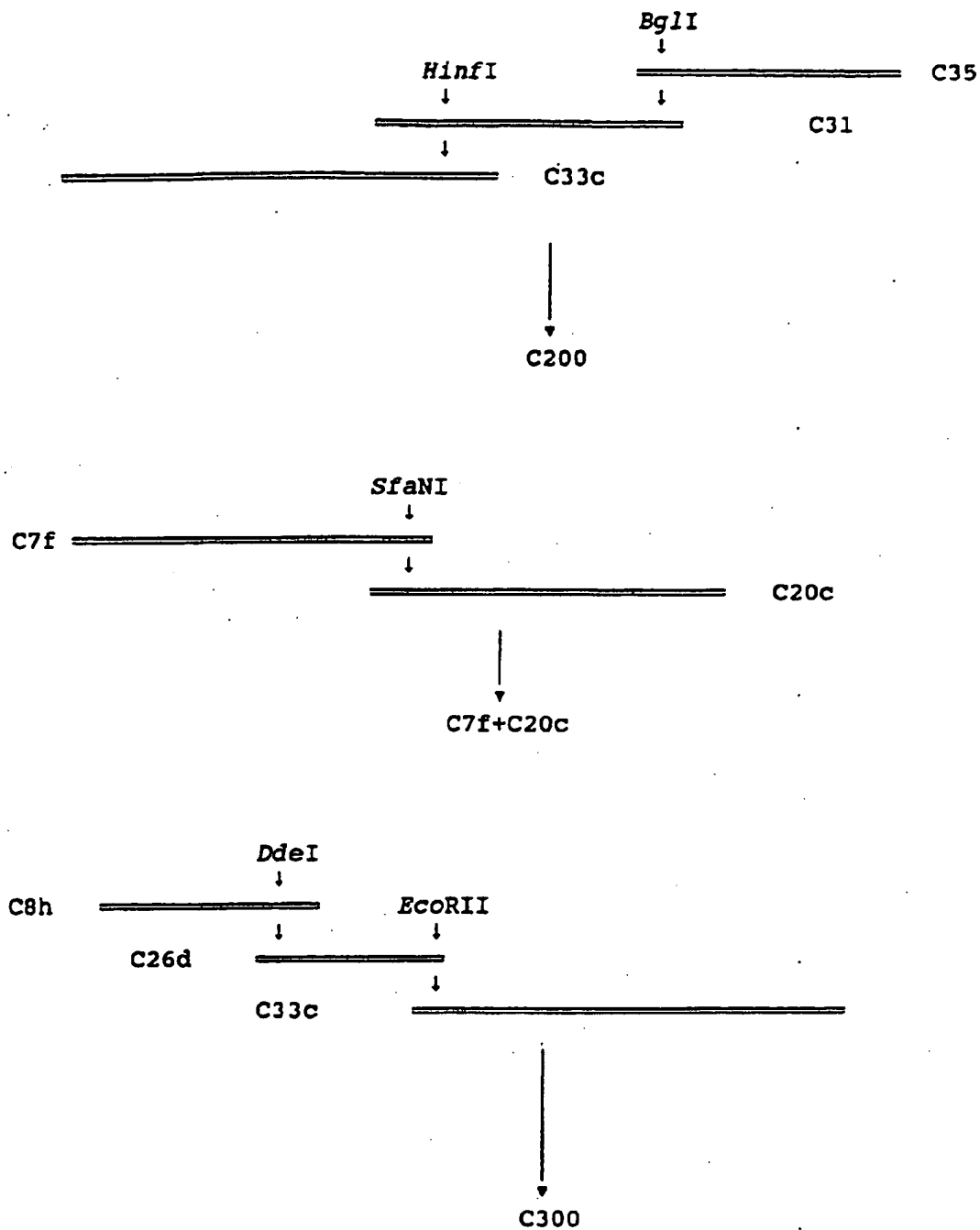
Figure 8 (Continued)

Figure 9

Figure 9 (Continued)

```
                              -155              -150
                    Met Ala Thr Asn Pro Val Cys Val Leu
                    ATG GCT ACA AAC CCT GTT TGC GTT TTG
                    TAC CGA TGT TTG GGA CAA ACG CAA AAC

      -145                    -140                    -135
Lys Gly Asp Gly Pro Val Gln Gly Ile Ile Asn Phe Glu Gln Lys Glu
AAG GGT GAC GGC CCA GTT CAA GGT ATT ATT AAC TTC GAG CAG AAG GAA
TTC CCA CTG CCG GGT CAA GTT CCA TAA TAA TTG AAG CTC GTC TTC CTT

-130                    -125                    -120                    -115
Ser Asn Gly Pro Val Lys Val Trp Gly Ser Ile Lys Gly Leu Thr Glu
AGT AAT GGA CCA GTG AAG GTG TGG GGA AGC ATT AAA GGA CTG ACT GAA
TCA TTA CCT GGT CAC TTC CAC ACC CCT TCG TAA TTT CCT GAC TGA CTT

                    -110                    -105                    -100
Gly Leu His Gly Phe His Val His Glu Phe Gly Asp Asn Thr Ala Gly
GGC CTG CAT GGA TTC CAT GTT CAT GAG TTT GGA GAT AAT ACA GCA GGC
CCG GAC GTA CCT AAG GTA CAA GTA CTC AAA CCT CTA TTA TGT CGT CCG

               -95              -90                    -85
Cys Thr Ser Pro Gly Pro His Phe Asn Pro Leu Ser Arg Lys His Gly
TGT ACC AGT CCA GGT CCT CAC TTT AAT CCT CTA TCC AGA AAA CAC GGT
ACA TGG TCA GGT CCA GGA GTG AAA TTA GGA GAT AGG TCT TTT GTG CCA

          -80                    -75                    -70
Gly Pro Lys Asp Glu Glu Arg His Val Gly Asp Leu Gly Asn Val Thr
GGG CCA AAG GAT GAA GAG AGG CAT GTT GGA GAC TTG GGC AAT GTG ACT
CCC GGT TTC CTA CTT CTC TCC GTA CAA CCT CTG AAC CCG TTA CAC TGA

     -65                    -60                    -55
Ala Asp Lys Asp Gly Val Ala Asp Val Ser Ile Glu Asp Ser Val Ile
GCT GAC AAA GAT GGT GTG GCC GAT GTG TCT ATT GAA GAT TCT GTG ATC
CGA CTG TTT CTA CCA CAC CGG CTA CAC AGA TAA CTT CTA AGA CAC TAG

-50                    -45                    -40                    -35
Ser Leu Ser Gly Asp His Cys Ile Ile Gly Arg Thr Leu Val Val His
TCA CTC TCA GGA GAC CAT TGC ATC ATT GGC CGC ACA CTG GTG GTC CAT
AGT GAG AGT CCT CTG GTA ACG TAG TAA CCG GCG TGT GAC CAC CAG GTA

                    -30                    -25                    -20
Glu Lys Ala Asp Asp Leu Gly Lys Gly Gly Asn Glu Glu Ser Thr Lys
GAA AAA GCA GAT GAC TTG GGC AAA GGT GGA AAT GAA GAA AGT ACA AAG
CTT TTT CGT CTA CTG AAC CCG TTT CCA CCT TTA CTT CTT TCA TGT TTC

               -15                    -10              -5
Thr Gly Asn Ala Gly Ser Arg Leu Ala Cys Gly Val Ile Gly Ile Arg
ACA GGA AAC GCT GGA AGT CGT TTG GCT TGT GGT GTA ATT GGG ATC CGA
TGT CCT TTG CGA CCT TCA GCA AAC CGA ACA CCA CAT TAA CCC TAG GCT
```
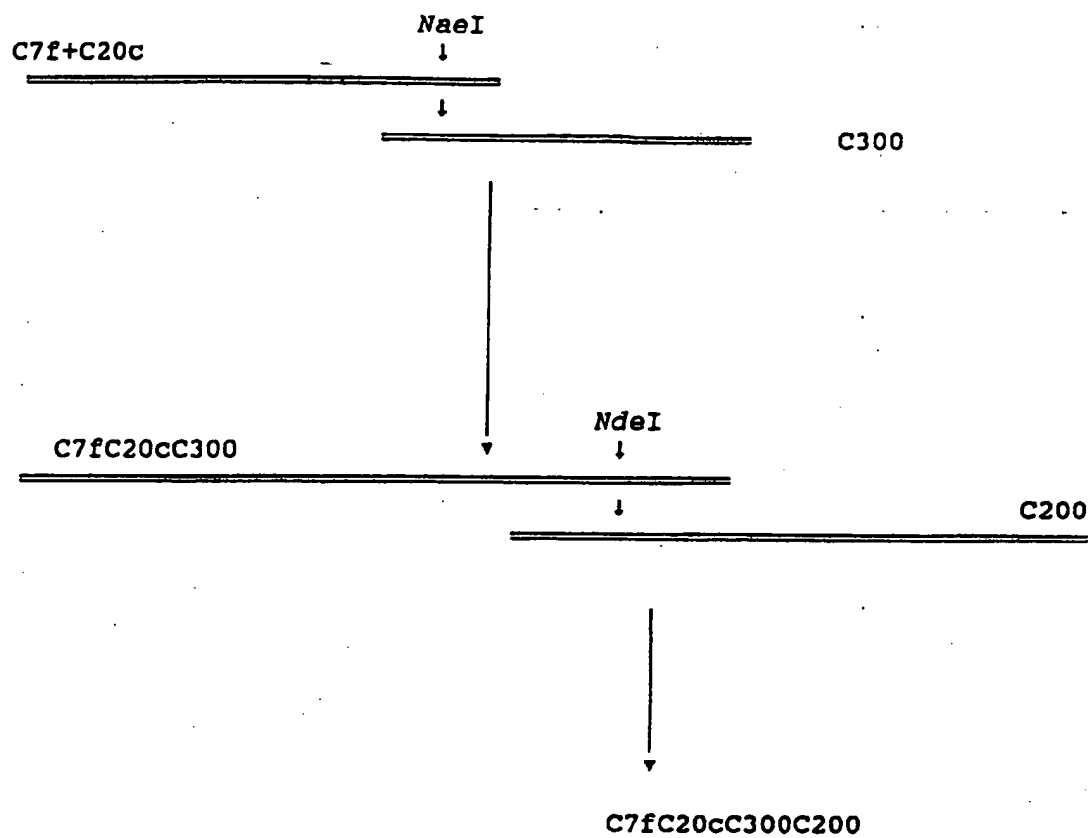
Figure 10

```
          1                 5                       10
    Arg Ile Gly Thr Tyr Val Tyr Asn His Leu Thr Pro Leu Arg Asp Trp
    ATT CGG GGC ACC TAT GTT TAT AAC CAT CTC ACT CCT CTT CGG GAC TGG
    TAA GCC CCG TGG ATA CAA ATA TTG GTA GAG TGA GGA GAA GCC CTG ACC


     15                20                 25                 30
    Ala His Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp Leu Ala Val Ala Val Glu Pro Val Val
    GCG CAC AAC GGC TTG CGA GAT CTG GCC GTG GCT GTA GAG CCA GTC GTC
    CGC GTG TTG CCG AAC GCT CTA GAC CGG CAC CGA CAT CTC GGT CAG CAG


                      35                 40                      45
    Phe Ser Gln Met Glu Thr Lys Leu Ile Thr Trp Gly Ala Asp Thr Ala
    TTC TCC CAA ATG GAG ACC AAG CTC ATC ACG TGG GGG GCA GAT ACC GCC
    AAG AGG GTT TAC CTC TGG TTC GAG TAG TGC ACC CCC CGT CTA TGG CGG


                      50                 55                 60
    Ala Cys Gly Asp Ile Ile Asn Gly Leu Pro Val Ser Ala Arg Arg Gly
    GCG TGC GGT GAC ATC ATC AAC GGC TTG CCT GTT TCC GCC CGC AGG GGC
    CGC ACG CCA CTG TAG TAG TTG CCG AAC GGA CAA AGG CGG GCG TCC CCG


          65                 70                 75
    Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Gly Met Val Ser Lys Gly Trp
    CGG GAG ATA CTG CTC GGG CCA GCC GAT GGA ATG GTC TCC AAG GGT TGG
    GCC CTC TAT GAC GAG CCC GGT CGG CTA CCT TAC CAG AGG TTC CCA ACC


        80                 85                 90
    Arg Leu Leu Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly Leu
    AGG TTG CTG GCG CCC ATC ACG GCG TAC GCC CAG CAG ACA AGG GGC CTC
    TCC AAC GAC CGC GGG TAG TGC CGC ATG CGG GTC GTC TGT TCC CCG GAG


     95                100                105                110
    Leu Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln Val
    CTA GGG TGC ATA ATC ACC AGC CTA ACT GGC CGG GAC AAA AAC CAA GTG
    GAT CCC ACG TAT TAG TGG TCG GAT TGA CCG GCC CTG TTT TTG GTT CAC


                 115                120                125
    Glu Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu Ala
    GAG GGT GAG GTC CAG ATT GTG TCA ACT GCT GCC CAA ACC TTC CTG GCA
    CTC CCA CTC CAG GTC TAA CAC AGT TGA CGA CGG GTT TGG AAG GAC CGT
```

Figure 10 (continued)

```
                130                        135                        140
     Thr Cys Ile Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala Gly
     ACG TGC ATC ATC AAT GGG GTG TGC TGG ACT GTC TAC CAC GGG GCC GGA
     TGC ACG TAG TAG TTA CCC CAC ACG ACC TGA CAG ATG GTG CCC CGG CCT


                145                        150                        155
     Thr Arg Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr Thr
     ACG AGG ACC ATC GCG TCA CCC AAG GGT CCT GTC ATC CAG ATG TAT ACC
     TGC TCC TGG TAG CGC AGT GGG TTC CCA GGA CAG TAG GTC TAC ATA TGG


                160                        165                        170
     Asn Val Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Gly Thr Arg
     AAT GTA GAC CAA GAC CTT GTG GGC TGG CCC GCT TCG CAA GGT ACC CGC
     TTA CAT CTG GTT CTG GAA CAC CCG ACC GGG CGA AGC GTT CCA TGG GCG


     175                        180                        185                        190
     Ser Leu Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu Val Thr
     TCA TTG ACA CCC TGC ACT TGC GGC TCC TCG GAC CTT TAC CTG GTC ACG
     AGT AAC TGT GGG ACG TGA ACG CCG AGG AGC CTG GAA ATG GAC CAG TGC


     Arg His Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser Arg Gly
     AGG CAC GCC GAT GTC ATT CCC GTG CGC CGG CGG GGT GAT AGC AGG GGC
     TCC GTG CGG CTA CAG TAA GGG CAC GCG GCC GCC CCA CTA TCG TCC CCG
                                         ↑
                                        NaeI


                210                        215                        220
     Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys Gly Ser Ser Gly
     AGC CTG CTG TCG CCC CGG CCC ATT TCC TAC TTG AAA GGC TCC TCG GGG
     TCG GAC GAC AGC GGG GCC GGG TAA AGG ATG AAC TTT CCG AGG AGC CCC


                225                        230                        235
     Gly Pro Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly Ile Phe Arg Ala
     GGT CCG CTG TTG TGC CCC GCG GGG CAC GCC GTG GGC ATA TTT AGG GCC
     CCA GGC GAC AAC ACG GGG CGC CCC GTG CGG CAC CCG TAT AAA TCC CGG


                240                        245                        250
     Ala Val Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp Phe Ile Pro Val
     GCG GTG TGC ACC CGT GGA GTG GCT AAG GCG GTG GAC TTT ATC CCT GTG
     CGC CAC ACG TGG GCA CCT CAC CGA TTC CGC CAC CTG AAA TAG GGA CAC
```

Figure 10 (continued)

```
      255                 260                 265                 270
      Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg Ser Pro Val Phe Thr Asp Asn Ser
      GAG AAC CTA GAG ACA ACC ATG AGG TCC CCG GTG TTC ACG GAT AAC TCC
      CTC TTG GAT CTC TGT TGG TAC TCC AGG GGC CAC AAG TGC CTA TTG AGG


                          275                 280                 285
      Ser Pro Pro Val Val Pro Gln Ser Phe Gln Val Ala His Leu His Ala
      TCT CCA CCA GTA GTG CCC CAG AGC TTC CAG GTG GCT CAC CTC CAT GCT
      AGA GGT GGT CAT CAC GGG GTC TCG AAG GTC CAC CGA GTG GAG GTA CGA


                          290                 295                 300
      Pro Thr Gly Ser Gly Lys Ser Thr Lys Val Pro Ala Ala Tyr Ala Ala
      CCC ACA GGC AGC GGC AAA AGC ACC AAG GTC CCG GCT GCA TAT GCA GCT
      GGG TGT CCG TCG CCG TTT TCG TGG TTC CAG GGC CGA CGT ATA CGT CGA
                                                       ↑
                                                      NdeI

                  305                 310                 315
      Gln Gly Tyr Lys Val Leu Val Leu Asn Pro Ser Val Ala Ala Thr Leu
      CAG GGC TAT AAG GTG CTA GTA CTC AAC CCC TCT GTT GCT GCA ACA CTG
      GTC CCG ATA TTC CAC GAT CAT GAG TTG GGG AGA CAA CGA CGT TGT GAC


          320                 325                 330
      Gly Phe Gly Ala Tyr Met Ser Lys Ala His Gly Ile Asp Pro Asn Ile
      GGC TTT GGT GCT TAC ATG TCC AAG GCT CAT GGG ATC GAT CCT AAC ATC
      CCG AAA CCA CGA ATG TAC AGG TTC CGA GTA CCC TAG CTA GGA TTG TAG


      335                 340                 345                 350
      Arg Thr Gly Val Arg Thr Ile Thr Thr Gly Ser Pro Ile Thr Tyr Ser
      AGG ACC GGG GTG AGA ACA ATT ACC ACT GGC AGC CCC ATC ACG TAC TCC
      TCC TGG CCC CAC TCT TGT TAA TGG TGA CCG TCG GGG TAG TGC ATG AGG


                  355                 360                 365
      Thr Tyr Gly Lys Phe Leu Ala Asp Gly Gly Cys Ser Gly Gly Ala Tyr
      ACC TAC GGC AAG TTC CTT GCC GAC GGC GGG TGC TCG GGG GGC GCT TAT
      TGG ATG CCG TTC AAG GAA CGG CTG CCG CCC ACG AGC CCC CCG CGA ATA


              370                 375                  380
      Asp Ile Ile Ile Cys Asp Glu Cys His Ser Thr Asp Ala Thr Ser Ile
      GAC ATA ATA ATT TGT GAC GAG TGC CAC TCC ACG GAT GCC ACA TCC ATC
      CTG TAT TAT TAA ACA CTG CTC ACG GTG AGG TGC CTA CGG TGT AGG TAG
```

Figure 10 (continued)

```
        385                           390                          395
Leu Gly Ile Gly Thr Val Leu Asp Gln Ala Glu Thr Ala Gly Ala Arg
TTG GGC ATT GGC ACT GTC CTT GAC CAA GCA GAG ACT GCG GGG GCG AGA
AAC CCG TAA CCG TGA CAG GAA CTG GTT CGT CTC TGA CGC CCC CGC TCT


        400                           405                          410
Leu Val Val Leu Ala Thr Ala Thr Pro Pro Gly Ser Val Thr Val Pro
CTG GTT GTG CTC GCC ACC GCC ACC CCT CCG GGC TCC GTC ACT GTG CCC
GAC CAA CAC GAG CGG TGG CGG TGG GGA GGC CCG AGG CAG TGA CAC GGG


415                     420                          425                  430
His Pro Asn Ile Glu Glu Val Ala Leu Ser Thr Thr Gly Glu Ile Pro
CAT CCC AAC ATC GAG GAG GTT GCT CTG TCC ACC ACC GGA GAG ATC CCT
GTA GGG TTG TAG CTC CTC CAA CGA GAC AGG TGG TGG CCT CTC TAG GGA


                        435                          440                  445
Phe Tyr Gly Lys Ala Ile Pro Leu Glu Val Ile Lys Gly Gly Arg His
TTT TAC GGC AAG GCT ATC CCC CTC GAA GTA ATC AAG GGG GGG AGA CAT
AAA ATG CCG TTC CGA TAG GGG GAG CTT CAT TAG TTC CCC CCC TCT GTA


                        450                          455                  460
Leu Ile Phe Cys His Ser Lys Lys Lys Cys Asp Glu Leu Ala Ala Lys
CTC ATC TTC TGT CAT TCA AAG AAG AAG TGC GAC GAA CTC GCC GCA AAG
GAG TAG AAG ACA GTA AGT TTC TTC TTC ACG CTG CTT GAG CGG CGT TTC


                   465                          470                          475
Leu Val Ala Leu Gly Ile Asn Ala Val Ala Tyr Tyr Arg Gly Leu Asp
CTG GTC GCA TTG GGC ATC AAT GCC GTG GCC TAC TAC CGC GGT CTT GAC
GAC CAG CGT AAC CCG TAG TTA CGG CAC CGG ATG ATG GCG CCA GAA CTG


              480                          485                          490
Val Ser Val Ile Pro Thr Ser Gly Asp Val Val Val Val Ala Thr Asp
GTG TCC GTC ATC CCG ACC AGC GGC GAT GTT GTC GTC GTG GCA ACC GAT
CAC AGG CAG TAG GGC TGG TCG CCG CTA CAA CAG CAG CAC CGT TGG CTA
```

Figure 10 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) *

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

IPC⁵: C 12 N 9/50
C 12 N 15/51, C 12 N 15/57, C 12 N 15/62,
C 12 Q 1/37

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched *

Classification System	Classification Symbols
IPC⁵	C 12 N, C 07 K, A 61 K

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation
to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched *

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT *

Category *	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
A	EP, A, 0318216 (CHIRON CORPORATION) 31st Mai 1989 see Figures 15-17 cited in the application	1-26
A	Nucleic Acids Research, Volume 17, no. 24 1989 (IRL Press) Yoshihiro Kubo et al.:"A cDNA Fragment of Hepatis C virus isolated from an Implicated Donor of Post-Transfusion non-A, non-B Hepatis in Japan" Pages 10367-10372 see Figure 1	1-26
A	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. Volume 87, March 1990, America, (US) R.H. Miller et al.: "Hepatis C Virus Shares Amino Acid Sequence Similary with Pestiviruses and Flavivirus as well as Members of two Plant Virus Supergroups" ./.	1-26

* Special categories of cited documents: ¹⁰

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report
11th July 1991	29. 08. 91

International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	miss T. MORTENSEN

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category *	Citation of Document, " with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
	page 2057 see page 206, column 1, lines 4-16	

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 21/08/91
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP-A- 0318216	31-05-89	AU-A-	2796789	14-06-89
		GB-A-	2212511	26-07-89
		JP-T-	2500880	29-03-90
		WO-A-	8904669	01-06-89

EPO FORM P0479